Hafa Adai!

Saipan Tribune

CNMI'S FIRST DAILY NEWSPAPER

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Medical library unveiled at local hospital. PAGE 3

Only 60 pct. of foreign students, investors claim permits. PAGE 5

OPINION METER

This week's poll:

Do you believe federalization will bring prosperity to the CNMI?

Let your voice be heard!
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PANDEMIC ALERT STATUS

PHASE 6

As of December 1, 2009

Phase 6: The pandemic phase, is an indication that a global pandemic is underway.

For more information about the H1N1 flu, contact DPH at 236-8797, Monday to Friday, from 8am to 5pm, 234-8950 during after hours, e-mail cnmipheoc@gmail.com, or visit www.cdc.gov/h1n1flu/.

Source: CNMI Department of Public Health, World Health Organization

INSIDE

Murder Charges

Philippine prosecutors charged the heir of a powerful clan with murder Tuesday in the massacre of 57 people.

ASIA...Page 17

Engaged

Chelsea Clinton has become engaged to her longtime boyfriend, Marc Mezvinsky.

LIFE & STYLE...Page 19

USCIS to grant parole for 4 groups

By HAIDEE V. EUGENIO
haidee_eugenio@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

Gulick

The U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services said yesterday that it will grant parole status—on a case-by-case basis—to four groups of individuals in the Northern Marianas, now that the CNMI is under federal immigration control.

These include CNMI permanent residents, immediate relatives of CNMI permanent residents, spouses and children of deceased CNMI permanent residents, and immediate relatives of citizens of Freely Associated States.

ON THE NET
www.dhs.gov

FAS citizens are those from Palau, the Marshall Islands, and the Federated States of Micronesia, which include Yap, Chuuk, Kosrae and Pohnpei.

David Gulick, USCIS district director, said a parole status granted to these impacted groups will be valid for two years, and may be renewed depending on the individual's continued eligibility.

"This is unique to the CNMI," Gulick said at a news briefing yesterday morning at the US-

See USCIS on Page 4

Munson tells Obama he is retiring in Feb.

Munson

By FERDIE DE LA TORRE
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REPORTER

Alex R. Munson has notified President Barack Obama of his intention to retire effective Feb. 28, 2010, as the Territorial District Judge for the District Court of the Northern Mariana Islands.

"It has been my distinct honor and privilege to have been the Chief Judge for more than 21 years and shall always be grateful for the opportunity I have had to serve the people of the United States and the Northern Mariana Islands," said

See MUNSON on Page 4

Feds make their presence felt

By HAIDEE V. EUGENIO
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REPORTER

From directors to policy advisers, specialists to public affairs officers, over a dozen representatives from the U.S. Department of Homeland Security and its component agencies have descended on Saipan in days leading up to the federalization of CNMI immigration on Nov. 28.

Many of these officials—mostly based in California, Hawaii and Guam—will be here at least until after public outreach programs and training sessions on U.S. immigration law are over.

They have met and will continue to meet with different groups and local agencies, and are often guest speakers at luncheons and meetings to help educate the CNMI about U.S. immigration law and regulations.

These officials have also been here to see for themselves the actual "takeover" of immigration processing at the airport and oversee their operations in the CNMI.

"Things have gone quite well. Lots of representatives here who will report back to DHS," said Alexander Y. Hartman, immigration policy

See FEDS on Page 4

HAIDEE V. EUGENIO

Wayne Wills, special agent-in-charge at the U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement's Office of Investigations-Honolulu, shows one of the agency's flyers asking the community to report suspicious activities, during a news briefing yesterday at the U.S. Department of Homeland Security/ICE offices at the Marina Heights II Building in Puerto Rico.

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

US Mint begins circulating CNMI quarter

The master die for the Northern Mariana Islands quarter on display at the U.S. Mint in Philadelphia is full of images of the islands, including a latte stone and a flying proa. Over 700,000 of the coins are now being placed in circulation.

Quarters commemorating the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands are now available for purchase by the general public through the United States Mint.

TO BUY COINS
Web: http://www.usmint.gov
Tel: 1-800-USA-MINT (872-6468)

The Northern Marianas quarters, the final coin in the District of Columbia and U.S. Territories Quarters program, were struck at production facilities in Denver and Philadelphia. About 700,000 of the coins were released for circulation to the Fed-

See US MINT on Page 4

Local

$165.5K eyed for distribution to ex-garment workers

By FERDIE DE LA TORRE
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REPORTER

The Garment Workers Trust Fund has asked the federal court to approve the payment of $165,550 to some former garment workers out of the $722,873 that has been left over from the funds in the settlement of the class action against the garment factories.

Trust fund chair Timothy H. Bellas is proposing a one-time charitable contribution of $350 each to 215 ex-garment workers, for a total amount of $75,250.

The CNMI Department of Labor and the Office of the Federal Ombudsman submitted 215 applications on behalf of former garment workers with unpaid wages. These workers are reportedly still in the CNMI.

Bellas proposed to keep $25,000 in the investment account for the 44 alien workers that submitted inconclusive documentation for medical assistance.

Bellas said the trust fund sent out notices to each worker

Bellas

requiring him or her to submit a medical certificate from a doctor describing the nature of his or her illness and the type and cost of treatment required.

The deadline for each worker to provide the supporting documents was on Nov. 6, 2009, according to Bellas.

The trust fund also asked the court to provide air fare transportation for 63 garment workers so they could go home, with an additional $100 as allowance.

"Due to variations in destinations, the total estimated amount for the repatriation plan will be approximately $65,330, including the $100 travel allowance per worker," Bellas said.

He said the trustees feel that repatriation is a consistent and pervasive theme of the settlement agreement and it was decided that all applications requesting repatriation be approved.

In addition to the cost of a non refundable one-way air ticket to the point of hire, each worker repatriated would receive a $100 amount for incidental travel expenses, he said.

Bellas said they received 1,313 applications from ex-garment workers who availed of the trust fund's hardship based assistance.

He said the total funding on hand is $722,873.18 and that they propose to retain $21,451.79 to fund the remaining operational expenses of the trust fund and any residual repatriation requests from CNMI Labor—until the fund is exhausted or until Dec. 31, 2009, whichever occurs first.

The former Garment Oversight Board established the trust fund. GOB was set up pursuant to the $20-million settlement agreement in the class action against the garment industry.

OAG charges man with ice trafficking

The Office of the Attorney General has charged a 35-year-old man with trafficking methamphetamine or "ice" on Saipan.

The OAG said that Junding Qiu delivered and possessed "ice" in two separate incidents on Oct. 15, 2009. No other details were given in court papers.

Meanwhile, the OAG charged two men for assaulting a man and damaging his car. The government charged Clarence R. Amirez and Lann Anko Billy with assault and battery, and criminal mischief. Hasselback said Amirez and Billy beat up Edward Brice Muña Sablan on Feb. 25, 2008. That same day, the prosecutor said, the defendants damaged Sablan's vehicle. ***(Ferdie de la Torre)***

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Medical library unveiled at local hospital

MONETH G. DEPOSA

Commonwealth Health Center medical librarian Berlinda Quitano, left, and Pacific Islands Library Consultant Arlene Cohen, pose inside the facility during yesterday's ribbon cutting ceremony. The library is equipped with over 200 brand new medical books and computers that will assist staff and physicians of the hospital. The library is also open to the public, free of charge.

By MONETH G. DEPOSA
moneth_deposa@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

A medical library equipped with brand new computers and medical books opened yesterday at the Commonwealth Health Center, the first-ever library facility built inside the hospital.

Its purpose, according to librarian Berlinda Quitano and Pacific Islands Library Consultant Arlene Cohen, is to help CHC medical personnel do their work effectively and properly.

The library makes available over 200 brand new clinical, nursing, and medical books that provide updated information about various medical professions.

Cohen emphasized the importance of maintaining and replenishing the library.

"Outdated medical information is dangerous," she said.

The facility was built using a portion of a grant from the Robert Wood Johnson Foundation, which awarded the Ayuda Foundation $390,000, split among eight recipients in the Pacific region.

Cohen appealed to the local government and the Legislature to help maintain the library by appropriating funds for its expansion and improvement.

She pointed out that nurses and physicians also need educational assistance from the government.

The hospital library officially opened yesterday and will be kept open from 8am to 5pm, Monday to Friday. Special arrangements can be worked out for those who want to visit the library during weekends.

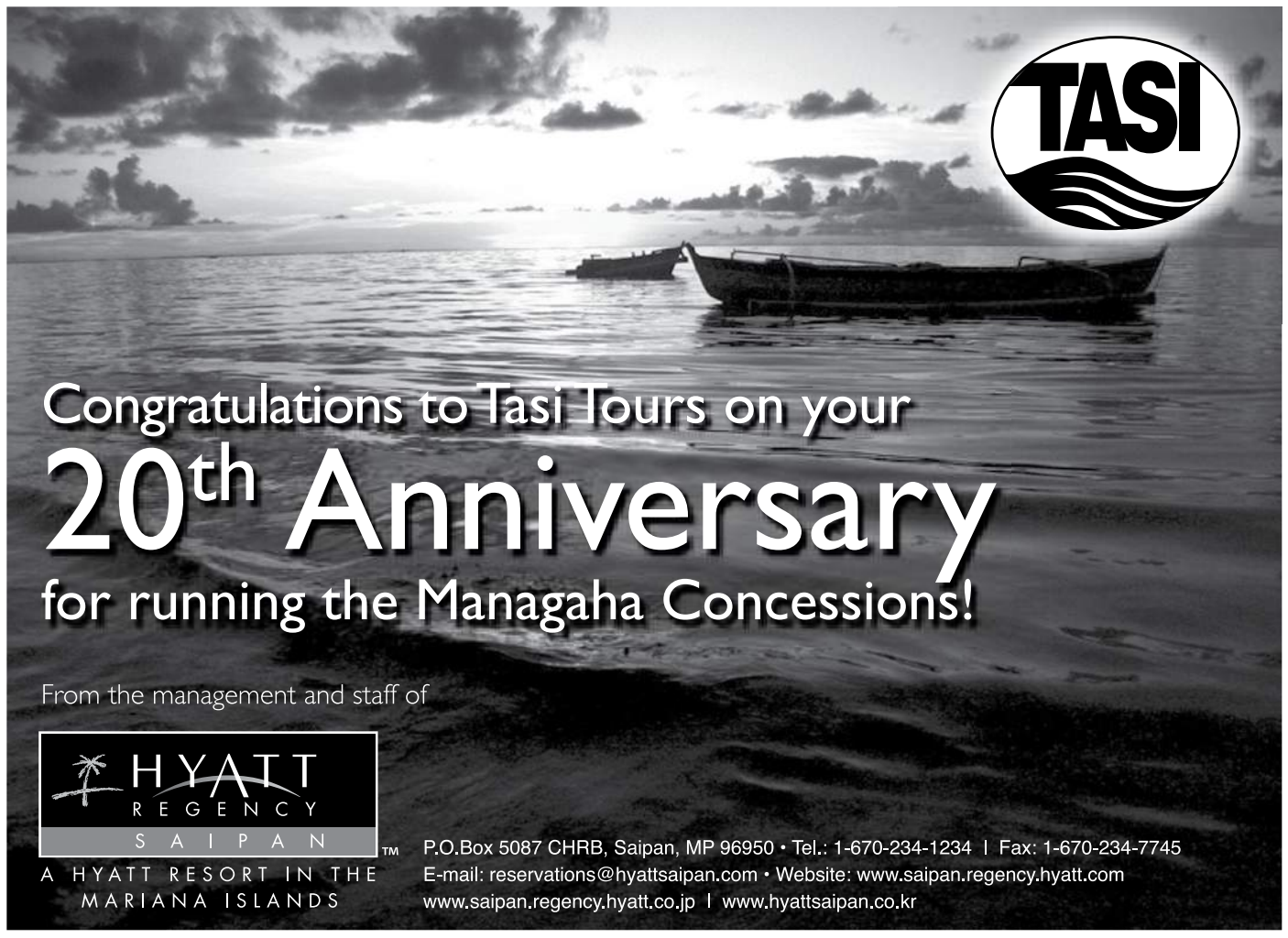
The facility is also open to the public, free of charge.

Some medical books were placed in a room at the hospital in 2007, which served the purpose of a library. At present, it is being used as a doctors' lounge.

Cohen, along with Alice Hadley of the U.S. Naval Hospital Guam Medical Library, will soon return to the island to sort out these books that may still be usable for the new library.

Quitano said the new library would also be beneficial to doctors who consistently work on their continuing medical education. CME sessions are held Wednesdays at the DPH secretary's conference room, adjacent to the new library.

Hadley traveled to Saipan in August this year to establish the CNMI Health Center Medical Library. Cohen completed cataloguing the collection in Seattle and Hadley organized the materials while on Saipan.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Fitial leaves today for chief executives summit in Guam

Gov. Benigno R. Fitial will leave today for Guam to attend the 12th Micronesian Chief Executives Summit, which begins tomorrow, said Teresa Kim, legal counsel for Lt. Gov. Eloy S. Inos.

The summit will be held at the Sheraton Guam Resort and Spa from Dec. 2 to 4.

Kim, who serves as press secretary in the interim, said yesterday that among those expected to participate in the three-day summit will be presidents from the Republic of the Marshall Islands, Palau and the Federated States of Micronesia, as well as the governors from the CNMI, Guam, Pohnpei, Chuuk, Kosrae, and Yap.

"The significance of holding these annual summits is that unique opportunities are created where leaders jointly consult on issues of mutual concerns, such as the challenges we face involving the global economy, price of commodities, regional response to the military buildup and U.S. federal policies in our region," said Kim, when asked for comment about the summit.

The 11th Micronesian Chief Executives Summit was held in Majuro in the Marshall Islands in July this year.

In the last summit, leaders affirmed the need for Micronesia to speak with one voice on issues that directly impact its people and their children's future, and highlighted issues such as climate change and the Micronesia Center for a Sustainable Future. ***(Haidee V. Eugenio)***

USCIS

From Page 1

CIS Application Support Center at the TSL Plaza Building in Garapan.

Gulick said USCIS is not forcing anyone to apply for parole; rather this is another option available to individuals in the four groups.

Parolees may request for a renewal up to 120 days before the existing parole period expires.

USCIS said it will apply the definition of "immediate relative" or "IR" under CNMI law for the parole program for the four groups.

These IRs include: legally recognized spouse; a child under 21 years old whether natural or adopted before the age of 18; a stepchild if the marriage that created the stepchild relationship took place before the child's 18th birthday; or a surviving spouse or child of a CNMI permanent resident.

Compassionate

Alexander Y. Hartman, immigration policy adviser at the DHS Office of Policy Development, described the grant of parole status to these groups as a "compassionate" decision on the part of DHS.

These four groups in the CNMI have long been asking the federal government to consider giving them a more permanent status under U.S. immigration, which applied to the CNMI effective Nov. 28.

Gulick, speaking before members and guests of the Rotary Club of Saipan at the Hyatt Regency at noon yesterday, said the USCIS' exercise of parole authority for these four groups has also been due in part to the concerns raised by Delegate Gregorio Kilili C. Sablan (D-MP) and Gov. Benigno R. Fitial.

Other groups of foreigners, mostly long-term nonresident workers, nonresident workers with minor U.S. citizen children, and nonresident workers with U.S. citizen children with disabilities, have also been asking for a more permanent immigration status, including a "green card" or a pathway to U.S. citizenship.

These other groups are not included among those who will be granted parole status.

Gulick also said there is no amnesty provision in the Consolidated Natural Resources Act or the federalization law for "overstayers" in the CNMI.

Gulick said on Monday, the USCIS Application Support Center saw over 50 other clients, in addition to the average daily number of customers, mostly inquiring about immigration status and other services. The number went back to normal yesterday.

Filing fee

There is no filing fee to obtain parole in the CNMI under this program.

USCIS, however, said that if a paroled alien requests employment authorization or travel privileges, he or she will have to file the appropriate application form.

The current filing fee for Form I-765 (Application for Employment Authorization) is $340, while the filing for Form I-131 (Application for Travel Document) is $305.

USCIS said it may waive the filing fee for the Form I-765 based upon an individual's inability to pay the fee.

Requests to travel from the CNMI to the United States and its territories, including Guam, do not require a filing fee.

USCIS said applicants must first make an appointment online (www.uscis.gov) to visit the USCIS Application Support Center at the TSL Plaza Building in Garapan.

Applicants will need to submit the parole request in person to a USCIS immigration officer at that appointment.

At the appointment, applicants are required to submit six sets of documents.

These include a typewritten or legibly handwritten request letter signed by the applicant and addressed to the director of the USCIS District 26 in Honolulu, Hawaii; evidence of status as of Nov. 28, 2009; evidence of residence in the CNMI at the time of application; a completed Form G-325 (biographic information); four recent passport-style photos; and a valid identity document such as a passport or birth certificate.

$305 for advance parole

Gulick and Hartman reiterated the "advance parole" option for nonresident workers who wish to travel off-island may allow for multiple re-entries to the CNMI as long as the foreign worker has a valid work permit in the Commonwealth.

The filing fee for advance parole is $305.

"We ask people to file an application at least 10 working days before the expected travel date. Unless we're overwhelmed, we would be able to release the document within 10 days," Gulick said.

He also said this during the Rotary Club of Saipan meeting, where he was the guest speaker.

Application for "advance parole" should be made through USCIS Guam.

Gulick said application for "parole" among nonresident workers who need to exit the CNMI due to emergency reason can be filed with the USCIS Application Support Center on Saipan.

FEDS

From Page 1

adviser at the DHS Office of Policy Development.

Hartman was among federal officials in a news briefing yesterday at the U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services Application Support Center at the TSL Plaza Building in Garapan.

These visiting officials are in addition to the 42 U.S. Customs and Border Protection officers and managers now processing passengers at the Saipan and Rota airports, as well as other federal officers stationed here long before the federalization.

"It's fairly seamless. We had no problem with our technology," said CBP port director for Hawaii Bruce Murley.

In yesterday's news briefing originally set for 9am, visiting DHS officials outnumbered the four reporters from three newspapers present.

Besides Hartman and Murley, other officials available to answer media questions included USCIS district director David G. Gulick; Wayne Wills, special agent-in-charge at the U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement Office of Investigations-Hawaii; and Michael A. Samaniego, assistant field director for ICE's Detention and Removal Operations.

Also present were CBP interim port director for the CNMI Jerry Aevermann; CBP-San Francisco public affairs liaison Edward Low; ICE public affairs officer Lori K. Haley; and Marie Thérèse Sebrechts, USCIS regional media manager.

After the briefing at the USCIS office, reporters were also invited by the U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services to visit their office at the Marina Heights II Building in Puerto Rico, originally set for 10:30am.

Wills, Samaniego and Haley were also joined by two other ICE officials, including Vida A. Leon Guerrero, detention and deportation officer at the ICE Detention and Removal Operations-Guam.

In another room, other ICE officers were holding a "briefing."

Most of the rooms at the DHS/ICE office on the first floor of the Marina Heights are either still empty or contain only desks and laptops.

After the news briefing, Samaniego gave a tour of the Saipan Immigration Court of the U.S. Department of Justice on the third floor of the same building.

There, assistant chief judge Thomas Y.K. Fong showed the courtroom. Fong will give an open house and orientation presentation for the immigration court at 11am today.

As of yesterday, there were five individuals who were the subject of deportation proceedings, two of them turned over by the local government on Saturday.

Samaniego said they also plan to share the use of the CNMI's adult correctional facility.

"It's a work in progress," he said.

'Partnership'

Wills said the success of ICE operations in the CNMI also depend on partnerships forged with local government agencies and the community in general.

Today, for example, ICE officers will be visiting maritime communities as part of the agency's outreach program.

Wills showed yesterday one of their flyers, which ask the public to report "suspicious" activities to (670) 233-0788 or 1(877)DHS-2ICE.

Wills and Samaniego said their priorities at this time are issues of human trafficking, alien smuggling, and financing for these activities.

Wills, however, said the absence of physical addresses in the CNMI poses another "challenge" for both enforcement agencies and those wanting to report suspicious activities.

They also said that they will be partnering with local enforcement agencies like the CNMI Division of Customs.

"We have a lot of expertise within our ranks any time. Once we get grounded, we will partner with the Commonwealth Customs authorities just like we partner with the territory of Guam," Wills said.

Today, USCIS' Gulick will be the guest speaker at the Saipan Chamber of Commerce. He was the guest speaker in yesterday's Rotary Club of Saipan meeting.

From Dec. 4 to 12, DHS and its component agencies like USCIS will also be holding training sessions to educate employers and workers about U.S. immigration laws.

MUNSON

From Page 1

Munson in a letter to Obama dated Nov. 23, 2009.

The judge also told the President that he intends to make himself available for recall service to hear cases. Munson sent a copy of his letter to Gov. Benigno Fitial on Monday.

The 68-year-old Munson has been in the CNMI for 27 years. He arrived on Saipan Sept. 1, 1982, to serve as chief justice for the High Court of the Trust Territory.

Munson succeeded Alfred Laureta, who was the first Territorial District Judge for the District Court of the NMI from 1978 to 1988.

District court judges are appointed by the U.S. President, with the advice and consent of the U.S. Senate to 10-year terms or until a successor is chosen and qualified.

Then-President Ronald Reagan nominated Munson to be the chief judge of the U.S. District Court for the NMI in 1988. The U.S. Senate confirmed him.

Then-President William Clinton nominated Munson for a second 10-year term in 1998. The Senate approved the nomination.

In an interview with Munson on Monday, he said he has mixed feelings about leaving the CNMI, which has become home for him and wife Kathy for 27 years.

The judge said he and Kathy had wonderful experience in Micronesia and in the CNMI.

"We both grew up in Los Angeles. We moved here where there's no season. We wanted four seasons," said Munson, smiling.

The couple had just moved to Sandpoint, Idaho.

"We've lots of friends here. We enjoyed our time here. We will miss a lot of people and the culture," he said. "We are looking forward to a new chapter of our life."

The judge remembered that when he first came to Saipan, there were only 15,000 people and that Beach Road and Middle Road were two-lane highways.

"Seventy-five percent of the buildings on the island did not exist then. There's no stoplight. Now it's very, very different. Saipan has grown to become sophisticated," he said.

Munson said he wants to thank the whole community for receiving them well.

When asked about previous recommendations for the federal court to have its own building on Saipan, Munson said he believes the U.S. District Court for the NMI should have its own courthouse building with the same security as any other federal courthouse in the U.S.

He said there should be a U.S. Attorney here along with a U.S. Marshal and a Chief Probation Officer.

At present, those positions are in Guam and CNMI only shares those positions.

"We should have all of the same things that any other districts in the U.S. without sharing with Guam," Munson added.

US MINT

From Page 1

eral Reserve Bank on Nov. 30 in the U.S. mainland.

"These coins are going to generate more positive awareness of the Northern Mariana Islands among the rest of the American public," said U.S. Rep. Gregorio Kilili C. Sablan (D-MP).

"Every time someone pulls one of these out their pocket they will be reminded that the Northern Marianas is beautiful and unique, and also just as much a part of this country as any other state or territory," he added.

Sablan went to the U.S. Mint in Philadelphia last month to inspect the design of the new coin and to participate in striking the quarters. He toured the production floor with plant manager Marc Landry and met Phebe Hemphill, who sculpted the die used to cast the Northern Marianas quarter.

Those interested in purchasing bags or rolls of the Northern Marianas quarters may visit http://www.usmint.gov or call toll-free 1-800-USA-MINT (872-6468).

An official Northern Mariana Islands quarter release event will take place on Dec. 10 on Saipan, where the public will also have a chance to purchase the Northern Marianas coins or trade their old quarters for the new. ***(PR)***

Only 60 pct. of foreign students and investors claim umbrella permits

By MONETH G. DEPOSA
moneth_deposa@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

Of about 2,500 foreign students and investors in the CNMI, only 60 percent were able to claim their umbrella permits during the last day of issuance on Friday.

This translates to only 1,500 individuals who actually picked up their permits from the Department of Commerce, said deputy Commerce secretary Sixto Igisomar yesterday.

According to the agency's initial count of permits for both categories based on Immigration Division records, there were only about 2,000 permits for both foreign students and investors. However, the department finalized the "real numbers" at 1,500 permits for foreign students alone and about 1,000 for foreign investors and retirees.

Igisomar

"Based on our preliminary cross match, we had 1,500 permits supposedly released to foreign students alone, of which over 900 were actually issued out," Igisomar said.

Of the 1,000 permits for foreign investors and retirees, only 600 were actually released and picked up by recipients, he said.

Based on the numbers, Igisomar said, only a few retirees claimed their permits.

With 60 percent of permits already issued out, Igisomar said the department will not issue any more permits for both categories. There will be no further extensions, he added.

Saipan Tribune learned that the increase in the initial count from 2,000 to 2,500 was a result of "changes" noted during Friday's permit issuance at the Multi-Purpose Center, where hundreds lined up to beat the deadline.

"From what we anticipated last Friday, there were some changes in the numbers. So we ended up doing like what the Labor Department is issuing… which are temporary umbrella permits," he said.

All permit recipients are scheduled to return to Commerce on March 1, 2010, to claim their permanent umbrella permits.

Commerce also discovered during the issuance that some individuals were recorded under the "pending" list but were actually issued out their permits. Igisomar said this was one of the many challenges they faced on Friday.

Commerce Secretary Michael Ada earlier said the agency will lose its authority over foreign students who don't have umbrella permits after the expiration of their student visas. With the two-year umbrella permit, foreign students are provided up to 2011 to comply with all requirements that will bring them within federal mandate.

The federal takeover of local immigration system is anticipated to impact not only the Commonwealth's workforce but in the recruitment efforts for foreign students and investors.

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Public mostly indifferent to changes in zoning areas

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By MONETH G. DEPOSA
moneth_deposa@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

The public appears indifferent to recent changes in zoning regulations following admission by a Zoning official that a series of public hearings they held had a very low turnout, if not zero attendance, among community members.

Zoning administrator Victor Barrett said that only two community members participated in two public hearings it conducted Monday night.

One hearing focused on lots recommended for rezoning in As Terlaje village. The second was to zone As Perdido as a permanent commercial area.

Barrett

Barrett said the concept of zoning is very new to the island and that people usually don't pay it much attention unless they are affected by the changes.

"I think that zoning is very new to this island…and unless it affects the people directly, they don't get involved," he told *Saipan Tribune*.

He said this reaction is "typical."

"I guess this also means that there's no strong feelings one way or the other…as nobody really seems to be bothered by the zoning changes," he added.

Barrett said his office did not even get any written testimonies and the two members of the public that attended the hearings expressed support for the changes.

One member was at the hearing to rezone As Terlaje lots while the other participated in the As Perdido hearing.

Barrett said four lots in As Terlaje are being considered for classification as permanent commercial zones. The areas are adjacent to the Northern Marianas College campus where there are some commercial stores.

"There are already commercial activities in the area…and we're just formalizing it as a commercial zone in our map," he said.

In As Perdido, both sides of the road to the airport are classified as both commercial and residential. Since no building was ever built in the residential zone, Barrett is recommending the re-classification of both sides into commercial areas to enhance economic activity.

Despite the low turnout, Zoning still plans to hold public hearings in the next few months for other changes in zoning areas.

Among the public hearings that yielded a good turnout was the one in Tanapag, where some lots were classified as residential under the Saipan Zoning Act. Nearly 50 community members joined in that discussion, according to Barrett.

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OPENS MONDAY TO SATURDAY ONLY
FROM 7:30AM TO 5:00PM

RIM SIZE	TIRE SIZE	COMBO PRICE	CAR	HOLES
14X5.5/114.3LH457	195/60R 14 R	$549.95	SONATA	4 HOLES
15X5.5 5/100 SSW008	185/65R15 N	$6.99.95	COROLLA	5 HOLES
			MILATA 97	5 HOLES
16X7 4/100-114.3 SSW073	205/50R16 F	$799.95	COROLLA	4 HOLES
			SONATA	4 HOLES
			PROTEGE	4 HOLES
16X7 4/100-114.3 SSW113	205/50R16 F	$999.95	COROLLA	4 HOLES
			SONATA	4 HOLES
			PROTEGE	4 HOLES
16X8 5/139.7 SSW014	235/60R16 N	$899.95	NISSAN	5 HOLES
			G. VITARA	5 HOLES
17X7 5/100 EVO R	205/40R17 N	$749.95	COROLLA	5 HOLES
17X7 4/108 OWH184	205/40R17 N	$819.95	FORD	4 HOLES
			BUICK	4 HOLES
17X7 5/100-114.3 BLK/RED	215/50R17 F	$1,199.95	CAMRY	5 HOLES
			MAZDA	5 HOLES
			ALTIMA	5 HOLES
			MAXIMA	5 HOLES
17X7 5/114.3 SSW066	215/50R17 F	$1,049.95	CAMRY	5 HOLES
			MAZDA	5 HOLES
			ALTIMA	5 HOLES
			MAXIMA	5 HOLES
			TOY-P/UP	5 HOLES
18X7.5 5/114.3 SSW109	225/40R18 F	$1649.95	CAMRY	5 HOLES
			MAZDA	5 HOLES
			ALTIMA	5 HOLES
			MAXIMA	5 HOLES
			TOY-P/UP	5 HOLES
18X8.5 6/139.7 SSW018	245/45R18 N	$1499.95	TOY-P/UP	6 HOLES
			NISSAN P/UP	6 HOLES
			4 RUNNER	6 HOLES
			FJ CRUISER	6 HOLES
18X8 5/114.3 SSW043	225/40R18 F	$1599.95	CAMRY	5 HOLES
			MAZDA	5 HOLES
			ALTIMA	5 HOLES
			MAXIMA	5 HOLES
			TOY-P/UP	5 HOLES
			CX 9	5 HOLES
			CX 7	5 HOLES
20X9.5 5/114.3 SSW066	245/40R20 F	$2399.95	CX 9	5 HOLES
			CX 7	5 HOLES
			HIGHLANDER	5 HOLES
			TUCSON	5 HOLES
			ST. FE	5 HOLES
			TOY-P/UP	5 HOLES
			NISSAN P/UP	5 HOLES
			OUTLANDER	5 HOLES
15x6.5 5/100-114.3 SSW073	205/65R15 N	$960.00	CAMRY	5 HOLES
			MAZDA	5 HOLES
			COROLLA	5 HOLES
			CRV	5 HOLES
			NISSAN	5 HOLES
16X7 6/139.7 SSW092	265/70R16 N	$1,240.00	NISSAN P/UP	6 HOLES
			TOY P/UP	6 HOLES
15X6 5/114.3 SSW108		$980.00	CAMRY	5 HOLES
			MAZDA	5 HOLES
			NISSAN	5 HOLES

Hearing in Northern Islands' mayoralty race lawsuit starts

By FERDIE DE LA TORRE
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REPORTER

Northern Islands voters, family members, and supporters of two mayoral candidates in the November election filled up the courtroom of Superior Court associate judge David A. Wiseman yesterday to watch the proceedings in the battle for a single vote.

Ramona Taisakan Rebuenog, a Northern Islands mayoralty candidate who lost to mayor-elect Tobias Dela Cruz Aldan by a single vote, has challenged in court 21 votes that she alleged were illegal.

Yesterday morning, Wiseman heard the initial testimony of Julie Villagomez of the Election Commission regarding the roster of Northern Islands voters.

Attorney Robert Torres, counsel for Aldan, told *Saipan Tribune* shortly after the noon break that testimony was taken relating to Rebuenog's challenge against 21 alleged illegal voters.

Torres said there were also initial testimony and arguments about Rebuenog's qualifications, including whether or not she is qualified to run for the office of mayor and whether she is a qualified voter for the Northern Islands itself.

"The court declined Mr. Aldan an opportunity to raise that as a threshold issue. And now we are proceeding forward with the examination of voters," the lawyer said.

When *Saipan Tribune* left the courtroom in the afternoon, attorney Richard W. Pierce, counsel for Rebuenog, was still questioning one Northern Islands voter.

Prior to that, another Northern Islands voter, Antonio Kaipat, gave his testimony. He said Pagan is his home and that he stayed there from 2005 to 2008. Kaipat, who was in a wheelchair, said he returned to Saipan in 2008 because he has diabetes.

"As long as we have transportation, I want to be there. I have a house in Pagan," he said.

Rebuenog named the Commission Election Commission and Aldan as defendants in the lawsuit.

She asked the court to declare her as the elected mayor of the Northern Islands because she had the largest number of legal votes cast in the Nov. 7 election.

She asked the court to void any certification of election issued to Aldan.

Rebuenog also wants the court to hold CEC and Aldan liable to her for her fees, costs, and expenses in the court proceeding.

Aldan, an independent candidate, received 68 votes, while Rebuenog, who ran under the Covenant Party, got 67 votes. This prompted Rebuenog to move for a recount of votes.

During the recounting last Friday, CEC determined the same result and certified that Aldan won the race.

Pierce said those 21 individuals were not, on Nov. 7 or ever, residents of the Northern Islands and were thus ineligible to vote in Precinct 4D and for the Northern Islands mayor.

"Without the CEC's counting these 21 illegal votes or a subset of the same, Rebuenog would have easily prevailed over Aldan for the position of Northern Islands mayor," Pierce said.

NMI, Guam faithful to reconnect, hold Mass in US

By MARCONI CALINDAS
CONTRIBUTING WRITER

PORTLAND, Oregon—All CNMI and Guam Chamorros and Refaluwasch residents in Oregon, Washington State and other nearby U.S. states will hold a Mass at the St. Clare's Catholic Church on Dec. 6.

Former Rep. Benjamin Seman said the Mass intends to reunite people from the CNMI and Guam who have opted to live in the U.S. mainland permanently.

"We hope that not only will we attempt to reconnect with our brothers and sisters from the CNMI and Guam, we hope that this will begin an effort to keep data to find out how many people are living out here in Oregon and Washington," Seman said.

He said he and friends Pat and Brian Boyer planned the event when Fr. Eric Forbes, a former Saipan resident, visited the Boyers in October. Seman and his wife Dorothy had lunch with them and asked Forbes if it was possible for him to return to Oregon to celebrate a Chamolinian Mass for CNMI and Guam residents who are now living in the Northwest part of the United States. Forbes is currently on sabbatical leave from his duties in Guam.

"Fr. Eric did not hesitate to accept but told us that he will get back to us on the exact date in December. Pat and Brian forwarded me Fr. Eric's e-mail and from there we have contacted several Chamorro and Refaluwasch friends living here in Oregon and Vancouver, Washington for a meeting to discuss plans to make this even a most memorable one," Seman said.

Seman took the initial responsibility to lead the planning group. The Boyers also are helping out, together with Trini B. Cameron from Vancouver, Washington; Ruth Miles and Ed Peter from Tualatin, Oregon; Cynthia and Frank San Nicolas from Salem, Oregon, Bernard and Cathy Villagomez from Portland, Oregon; Velma Palacios and Maryann Palacios Soto, including Remy and Vicente Seman from Beaverton and Hillsboro, Oregon.

The Mass will be held in Chamorro and all songs will be in Chamorro and Refaluwasch. Since there is currently no organized group from the CNMI and Guam in Oregon, Seman said the group is relying on friends and families to spread the word to all Chamorros and Refaluwasch from the CNMI and Guam to join them in this event.

"We have also sent out an invitation to the people in Seattle, Washington by e-mail to the Chamorro and Refaluwasch Club of Washington," Seman said.

A social gathering and refreshments will follow after the Mass.

The Mass will be held two days before the celebration of the Immaculate Conception of the Blessed Virgin Mary, so the Mass will be offered to the Blessed Virgin.

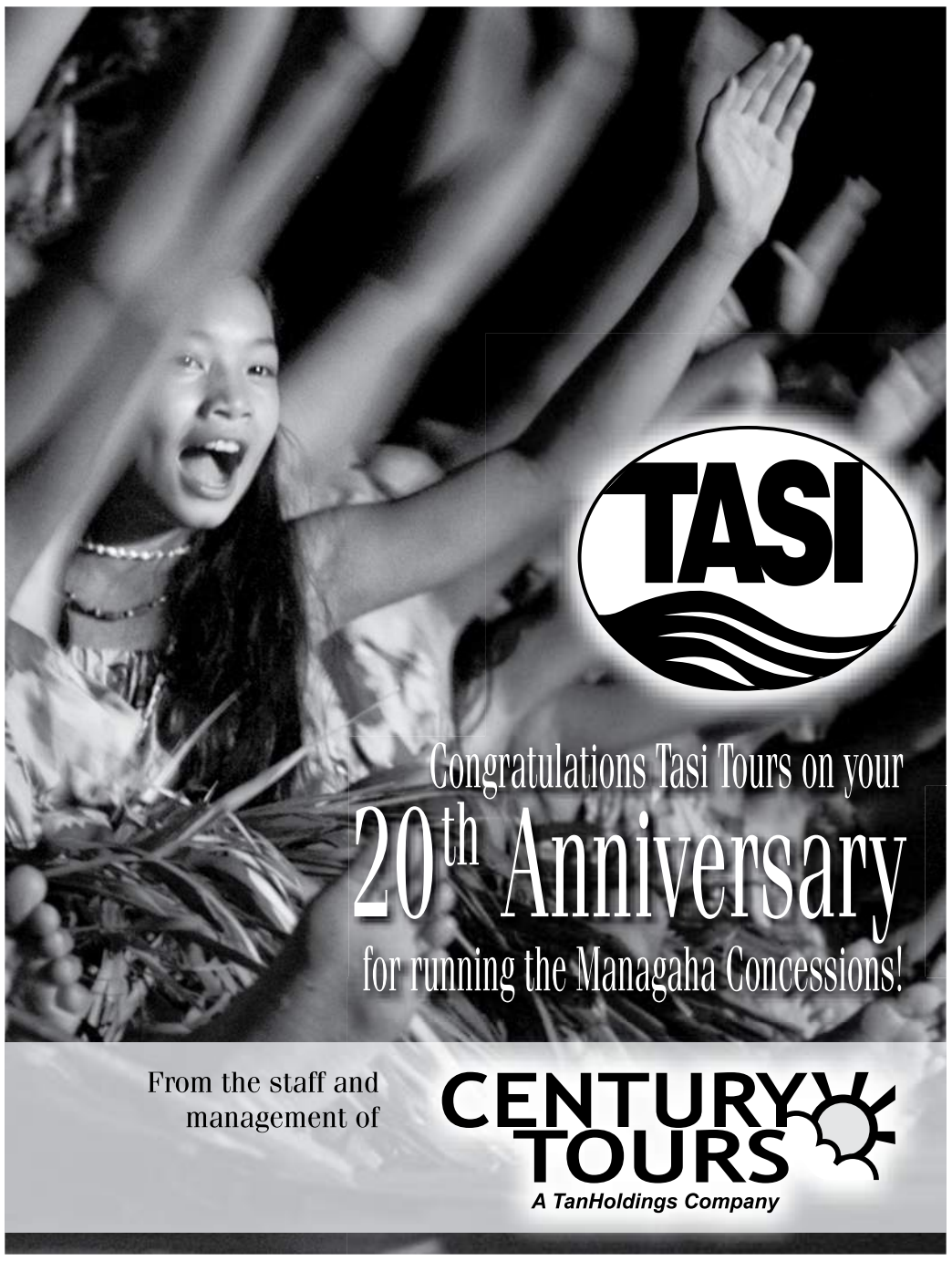
"We will also ask all in attendance to present names of those loved ones who have passed so that this Mass will also be offered to those who have departed to their eternal rest. It will conclude with the blessing of all those in attendance who are sick," Seman said.

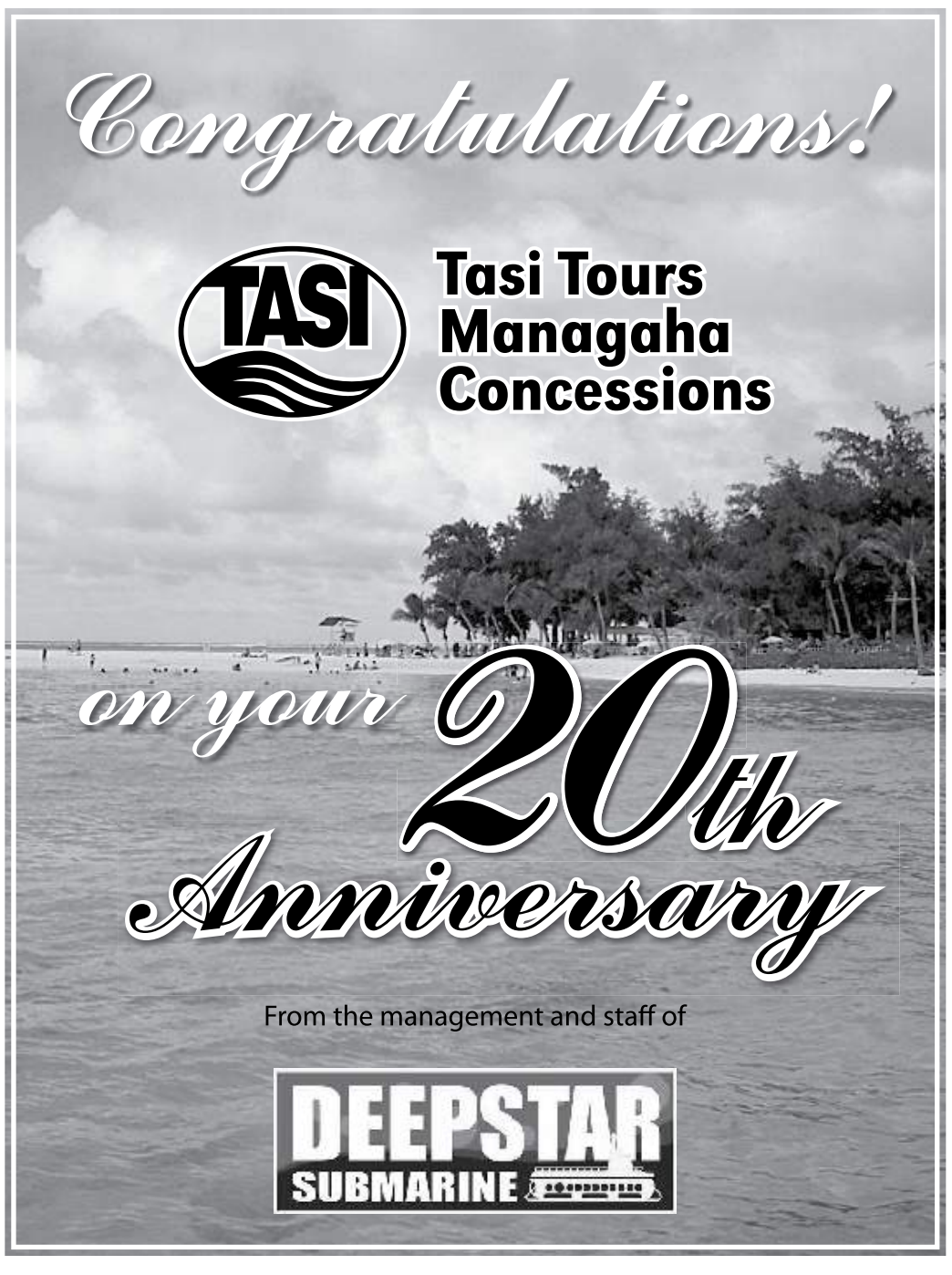
The former CNMI congressman is hoping that readers on Saipan and Guam will contact their families and friends living in Oregon and Washington State to let them know about the special event.

He said the event aims to bring everyone together to be part of something that everyone has been longing for, "a Chamolinian Mass that will use the our own language and sing all the beautiful church songs that we always heard back home."

The Chamolinian Mass will be held at the St. Clare's Catholic Church on 8535 S.W 19th St, Portland, Oregon. The Mass starts at 2pm.

For more information contact Benjamin and Dorothy Seman at 503-430-1507 (Beaverton, Oregon); Pat and Brian Boyer at 360-936-0333 (Vancouver, WA); or Cynthia and Frank San Nicolas at 503-566-7063 (Salem, Oregon).





NMC posts 312 foreign students in five years

By MONETH G. DEPOSA
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REPORTER

The Northern Marianas College recorded a total of 312 foreign students in the last five academic years, according to the institution's records.

These students were accommodated at the community college under the foreign student entry permit program.

NMC disclosed yesterday that an average of 120 foreign students are enrolled in each academic year.

"Over the last five years, NMC has enrolled 312 individual students under the foreign student entry permit, with an average of 120 such students enrolled each academic year," said NMC in a statement to Saipan Tribune.

To further assist its current crop of foreign students, NMC said it is working closely with the Department of Commerce, which issues the student permits.

This year, a list of students with 760H, 240H, and VEP visas was submitted for verification to the Commerce Department.

"The students on the list should have received their umbrella permits already," the college said.

Friday was the last day for foreign students to pick up their umbrella permits at the Multi-Purpose Center. Commerce was open until 9pm to ensure that all foreign students and investors were able to get their permits.

NMC president Dr. Carmen Fernandez lauded yesterday the department's assistance to their students.

"We want to thank the Department of Commerce for their role in assisting our students obtain the necessary documents," said Fernandez, adding that the new federal regulations on foreign students will have a significant impact on the college on many levels.

Nonetheless, Fernandez said, they are working to ensure that NMC continues to aggressively recruit foreign students and provide them with the assistance they need to succeed at the college.

NMC is home to nearly a thousand students, including foreign students, this school year.

Fernandez earlier said the college is also looking at ways of how to retain its nonresident experts at NMC. She said a couple of scientists teaching at the campus are nonresidents.

There were about 2,500 permits supposedly issued to both foreign enrollees and investors by the department before the Nov. 28 transition period.

Commerce said yesterday it did its best to reach out to recipients prior to the deadline last week. A permanent permit is scheduled for issuance in March 2010.

Flashback

A LOOK BACK AT PAST YEARS' HEADLINES

Dec. 1, 1998

Cuts await fat pay

Gov. Pedro P. Tenorio yesterday opened the possibility of cutting back the salaries of highly-paid government employees in what could be the most serious cost-cutting step the cash-strapped administration might implement to deal with the deepening financial woes. According to the governor, the pay cut is part of a four-point proposal he will unveil to the Legislature in a meeting scheduled this week apparently aimed at seeking the backing of lawmakers. "I think everybody should...share some of the hardships we are facing now.

BPL eases business fears on Managaha

The Board of Public Land will seek fresh proposals for the commercial development of Managaha Island to draw more participants in the multi-million tourism project despite a controversial law giving preference to local corporations, its chairman said yesterday. "The board's decision based on the new law is to have a new request for proposals, advertise it and give everybody else the chance," said Tomas B. Aldan, chairman of the policy-making body, as he allayed fears that Public Law 11-48 would influence the selection of the next operator of the popular tourist destination. The law, which was put in place following the Legislature's override of Gov. Pedro P. Tenorio's veto of a measure favoring NMI descent to run Managaha, has triggered an uproar from businessmen seeking concession rights who felt the legislation was unfair.

Dec. 2, 1999

CDA cuts funding to BDC

The Commonwealth Development Authority yesterday terminated its annual grant agreement with the Northern Marianas College's Business Development Center which funds the graduate internship program. According to CDA Board Chair John S. Tenorio, the decision was fueled by the failure of NMC-BDC to carry out its program this year. Mr. Tenorio said he was disappointed with the outcome of the program, having attracted only three interns this year despite funding of $93,000 by CDA. The Center usually receives eight to 12 students every year from the U.S. mainland who assist BDC in helping local residents in their businesses.

DPH backs creation of AIDS center

Public Health Secretary Joseph Kevin Villagomez yesterday said he supports the establishment of a center for people suffering from AIDS or infected with HIV in the Northern Marianas. The concept, similar to Guam, was suggested by Moses Saburo, the first person on the island to publicly admit that he's infected with the AIDS-causing virus. However, such plan should be supported by the community to ensure its success and sustainability, Mr. Villagomez said. He suggested to the local AIDS Council to look at the facility in Guam to learn how it can be applied in the CNMI. Mr. Saburo has earlier proposed the creation of a center to provide a venue for people suffering from the disease to interact and exchange experiences. He said most of them only depend on the support from their families and friends.

Dec. 2, 2002

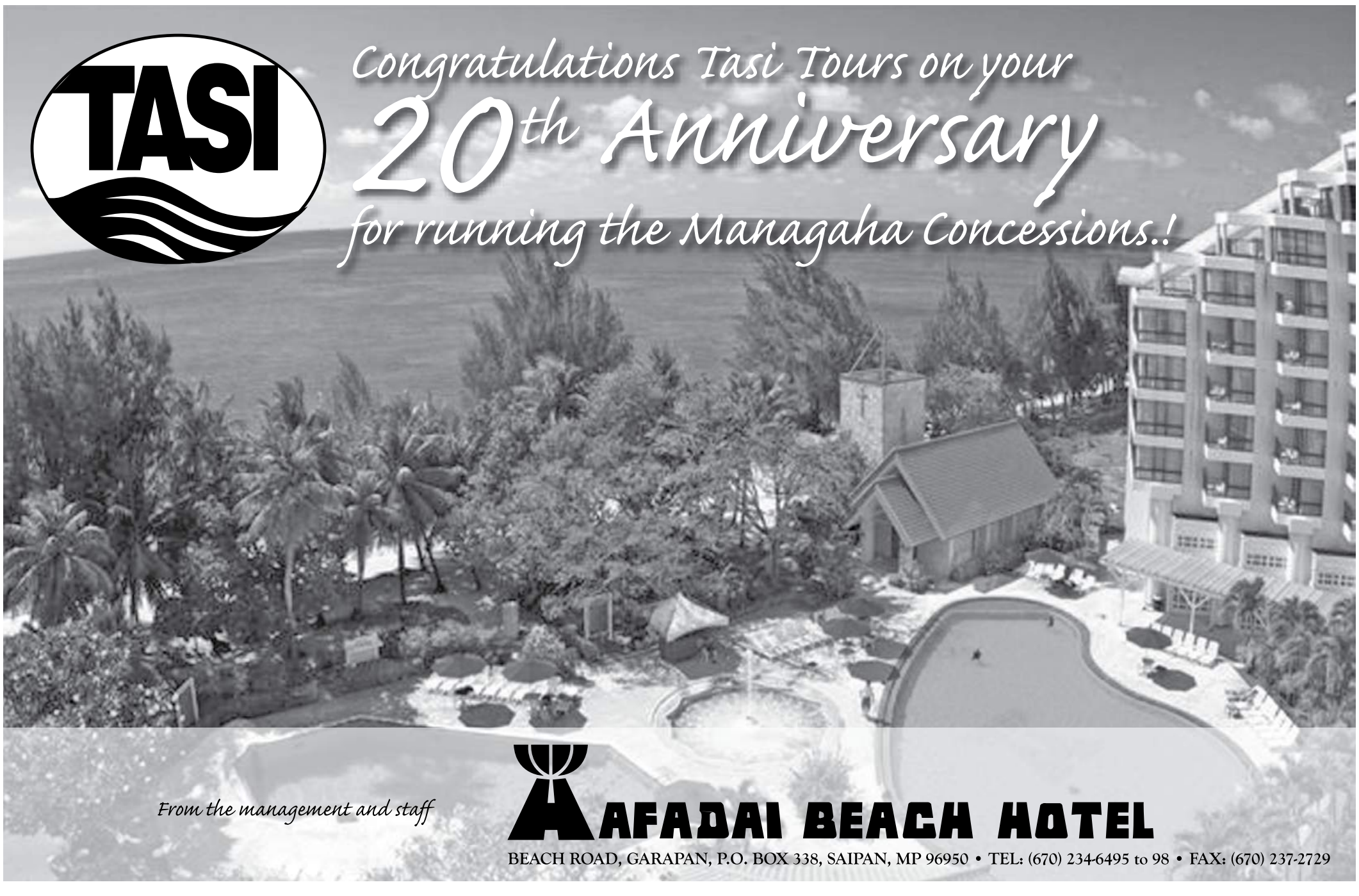
Poker firms limited to 12 hrs

Beginning Friday last week, operation hours of all poker arcades in the Commonwealth are now limited to just 12 hours daily, from 10am until 10pm, excepting those machines operating inside casinos. The Department of Finance implemented this move "on an emergency basis," though it did not explain why in the notice it issued to all poker machine establishments in the CNMI. The undated notice, signed by Finance Secretary Frank B. Villanueva, merely advised the poker establishments that that the department has adopted emergency amendments to the Rules and Regulations for the Operation of Poker Machines in the CNMI.

Hotel cited for waste oil spill

Several of the 90 container drums filled with waste oil and stored on the grounds of the Plumeria Resort in San Roque have been leaking, just a few meters away from the beach-an incident that the Coastal Resources Management Office considers to be potentially catastrophic to the environment. CRMO administrator Joaquin D. Salas said enforcement officers discovered this recently after visiting the hotel, which has not even satisfied its penalty settlement obligation in connection with an oil spill in July 2001 that spread to adjacent wetlands. As this developed, Salas said the agency would revise the hotel's permit to compel it to hook up with the Commonwealth Utilities Corp.'s power supply, since its operation of a power generator is the reason why the hotel is stocking waste oil.

Congratulations
on your 20th
Anniversary
TASI
Tasi Tours Managaha Concessions
From the staff and management of
APC
AQUA RESORT CLUB
Saipan


TASI
Congratulations Tasi Tours on your
20th Anniversary
for running the Managaha Concessions.!
From the management and staff
AFADAI BEACH HOTEL
BEACH ROAD, GARAPAN, P.O. BOX 338, SAIPAN, MP 96950 • TEL: (670) 234-6495 to 98 • FAX: (670) 237-2729

Opinion

Hafa Adai!
Saipan Tribune
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MEMBER

The Associated Press | Pacific Islands News Association

EDITORIAL

Even friendlier skies

It seemed clear, when Congress passed a lobbying law two years ago, that lawmakers would no longer be able to take corporate jets at a fraction of the real cost: They'd have to pay the fair market value of chartering a private plane, not simply first-class fare. It seemed clear, as well, to the Federal Election Commission, which had to write rules implementing the new law. Except that the rules, although approved, never took effect, because by the time the required explanation was written, the FEC was down to just two members, not enough for a quorum. Now that the agency is back up to what passes for full strength, its new Republican members seem more interested in carving out loopholes in the law than in enforcing it. So when the agency finally got around to issuing regulations this month, it switched gears: The stricter rules, it said, wouldn't apply when senators traveled for national campaign committees or even their own leadership political action committees. (The House was not involved because it passed its own internal rules—without this glaring exception.)

The FEC's about-face is a moderate-size outrage illustrative of an even bigger one. The problem with letting lawmakers fly the corporate skies at cut-rate prices was that it offered them a huge benefit in cost and convenience. Not only were they beholden to their corporate taxi services, they were also the captive audience of corporate officials who came along for the ride. This problem existed no matter what the purpose of the campaign travel—whether to raise money for a lawmaker's own campaign, for an ostensibly separate leadership PAC or for the greater good of the party. The statute itself refers to payments for charter flights by "the candidate, the authorized committee, or (begin ital) other political committee"(end ital) (italics ours). But if the language is somehow unclear, the intent of Congress is not. As then-Sen. Barack Obama, D-Ill., put it during floor debate on the measure, "We need to end this corporate jet perk if we are to pass real, meaningful ethics reform." The FEC's action has the effect of ending the perk—part way.

The larger outrage is the continuing our-way-or-no-way intransigence of the three Republican commissioners. FEC Chairman Steven Walther, an independent named by the Democratic side, said that he agreed with the original view but was reluctantly going along with the three Republicans in the interests of getting the rules "on the books," albeit two years late. Deadlock is, increasingly, the default position on the six-member commission, with the Republican bloc refusing to approve settlements already reached by the commission staff, open investigations or appeal losses in court. In the short term, it's time to name replacements for the two commissioners, including Republican Don McGahn, whose terms have expired but whose successors have not been nominated. If that requires President Obama to pick a Republican himself rather than waiting for suggestions from congressional Republicans, as is the custom, so be it. In the longer term, it's another reminder that something must be done about the inherently dysfunctional structure of this critical agency.

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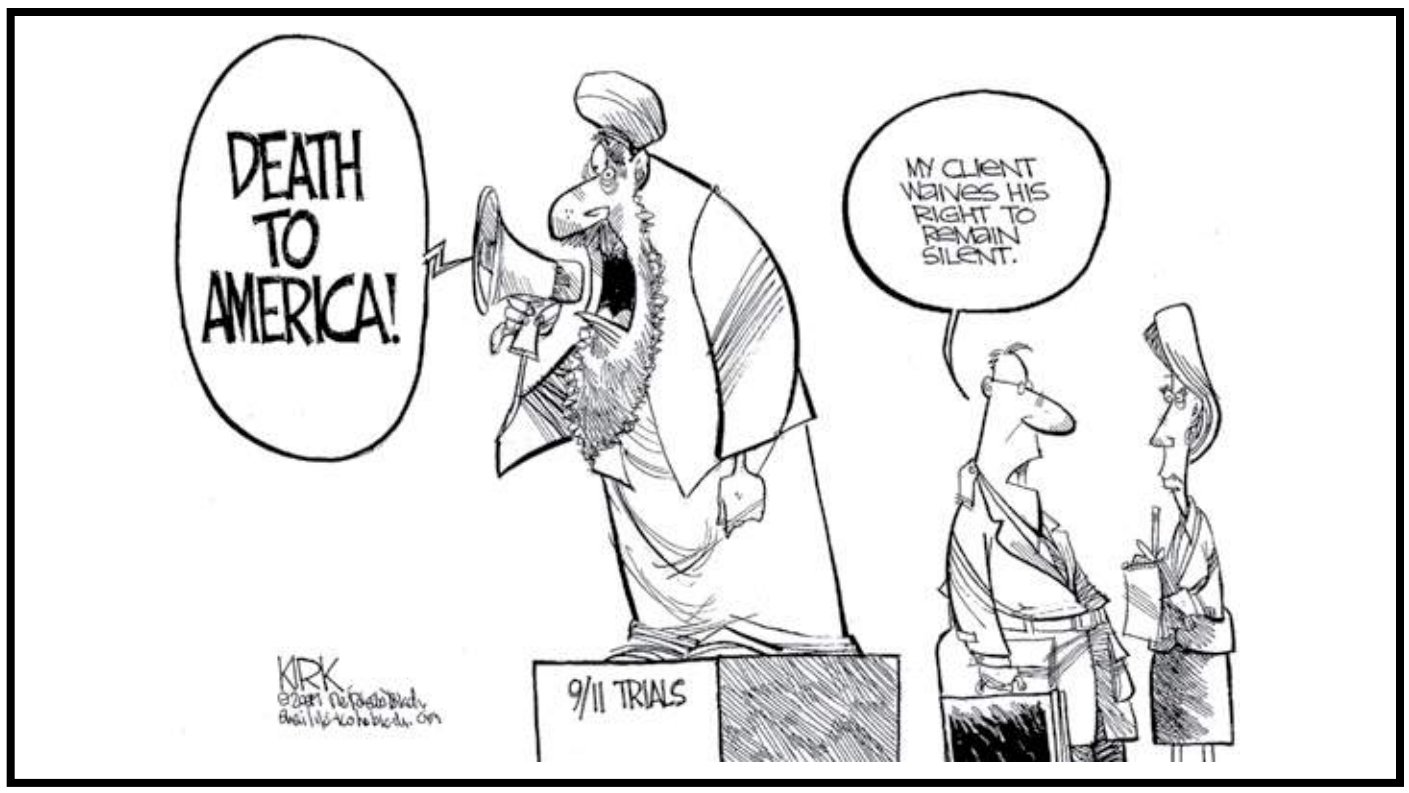


Concluding unscientific postscript 3: CNMI politics

Editor's Note: Jaime Vergara has been a regular contributor to the Opinion page of the Saipan Tribune *and this week's series will be his last this year.*

By JAIME VERGARA
Special to the Saipan Tribune

Vergara is a regular contributor to the Saipan Tribune*'s Opinion Section*

In my 11 years of residence in the CNMI, I voted in the last three gubernatorial elections for candidates whose numbers were not the majority selection. I had Heinz on this last one. Uncle Ben will most likely be confirmed. On 2005, Babauta got my #2 lead pencil, but he even trailed Heinz at that tally. Uncle Ben then served his first term. I voted for JB in 2001, though my preference was Jesse who trailed the count miserably. JB was selected in that election. My track record: one out of three.

Not unlike the elderly Bush, however, who made it clear to the Texas Tech U population that he had invited THE President to the presidential library, who was unequivocal in calling President Obama *his* president and *the* president, I will give my unequivocal respect and support to whoever will be confirmed Governor as *my* governor!

I confess that my experience with the people I voted for had not always been memorable ones. It was my first official function on island when Governor Pedro Tenorio gave his SOCA at the Multi-Purpose Center. Wearing a clerical garb, I sat beside Juan Babauta, then the CNMI Washington Rep. Having lived in DC half of the 90s, and represented not too long before Hawaii to a White House dinner where the informality and collegiality of Clinton and Gore were refreshingly new, I experienced a "distance" and an "unfriendly" Babauta specially when I tried to make small conversation.

I was sure I gargled earlier that day, but I was told by a close associate that Filipinos were not popular in some circles. I wanted to exclaim that I was already a U.S. citizen long before the 1986 Reagan declaration of U.S. citizenship of CNMI residents, but that was hardly the point. Common courtesy from the DC rep that day did not come. Nevertheless, I voted for him in the following election. I did get to know him better during his term, and discovered that people skills was not his forte; but I did not hesitate to bring matters of consequence to his attention when necessary, and his office responded well, so much so that I stood by him again in the following election in spite of his unpopularity, and the fact that I was a Democrat.

Heinz participated in a diabetes conference I helped facilitate in one of the island's resorts, and if JB was dry, Heinz was arctic cold, and arrogantly so. I sat in his table during one of the breakout sessions, and he struck me as one who thought he was wasting his time mingling with the hoi polloi. He was demonstrably conversant on the subject matter, but acted like he was only there as a participant observer for the Legislature. He would not be bothered to join the broad participatory method we were using. Still, I voted for him in the recent election.

The political choices we make are often between ones we like, and also ones we do not like. Commonwealth election adheres to the democratic election process, quite ahead of the display of violence that recently marred the upcoming election in the Philippines. Yet the veneer of democracy overlaid on a hierarchical structure of stratified social classes traditional in Micronesia renders the democratic process a charade rather than as an efficient way of selecting qualified people to do specific public functions. In fact, our elections are a cross of a popularity and acclamation contest, a call and accounting of family and clan loyalties, and a recognition of candidate's preferred, honored, and respected status. That is why candidates begin their campaign by stating how honored they are for the opportunity to run for a position, as if they were dragged to register at the Commission on Election, and that their personal existence hinged on this coronation rite.

The foregoing is not about Babauta and/or Hofschneider. It is to underscore the fact that our island politics is of emotions and sentiments, of social relatedness. I helped launch a friend's candidacy once and I was astounded when the candidate started weeping at the podium like a wailing widow at a wake, or an overwhelmed bride at the altar, as if he just reached the apex of his career rather than just commencing a jab at public office.

I left a Church-related school in Kentucky in the '60s when one of my professors argued that the Jeffersonian phrase in the American Declaration of Independence, "that all men (sic) are created equal," was theologically indefensible because God does choose His people. Besides, he claimed, the notion of equality goes against the grain in science and psychology; some people evolve to be more superior than others! He was not at the fringe. He represented people whose beginnings held notions that there is "neither Jew nor Gentile," that there will "no longer be masters and slaves," yet would assert the existence of a master race, and a superiority inherent in the survival of the fittest.

This deeply shocked my naiveté since Voice of America broadcasts and readings of USIS literature were clear that American institutions were bastions of civil liberties, citadels of liberal learning, and promoters of equality of all. Indeed, the task in our time of politics is to recognize that when 1 percent of the population owns 60 percent of its wealth, as it is in the United States, no system of universal suffrage will bring equality and fairness to the election process. The moral contradiction of our time glocally is the imbalance between the 15 percent of the population owning and holding privileged access to 85 percent of the world's resources and assets.

That contradiction applies to the *Taotao* Marianas and the Alamanni of the Rhine, the Manchu of the steppes to the Maori of Aotearoa, the Sami of Lapland to the Quecha of Bolivia, the Inuit of Alaska to the Bantu of the Congo, the mulatto and the mestizo, the mongrel and the Creole, and all other persons in between. For the real division in the world is neither ethnicity nor ideology; it is between the haves and the have-nots.

The political challenge in our time is not who will lead the Commonwealth to a balanced budget, or who of the incumbents and has-been will out-Uncle the Ben/Eloy tandem. Rather, who will facilitate the making of a people whose economics is one of creation and cooperation rather than exploitation and competition, its politics one of transformation and meaning rather than conquest and coercion, and its culture one of compassion and care rather than fear and suspicion. This will be mirrored in our treatment of two-thirds of our population who are represented in our Legislature but do not get to vote, counted in our census but are alien to our citizen assemblies. What we do and how we treat our overstayers reflect the state of our community. How we individually and communally treat each other across the economic divide measures the health of our soul. That is the core issue of real island glocal politics.

EDITORIAL POLICY The *Saipan Tribune* welcomes comments on any article, column, editorial, or topic that may be of interest to the public. Letters to the editor must include the name, address, and contact number of the contributor. Letters that are critical in nature should focus on issues, not personalities. Contributions consisting of 500 words or less have more chances of getting published. The *Saipan Tribune* reserves the right to publish a contribution or not; the right to edit submissions for length, accuracy, and clarity; and the right to publish and distribute contributions in print, electronic, or other media formats. Submissions may be sent via snail mail to the 2nd Floor, JP Center, Beach Road, Garapan, Saipan, 96950; fax (670) 235-3740; e-mail to editor@saipantribune.com; or through our website at www.saipantribune.com.

Of business ethics and moral compasses

The only way to take control of your life, raise your standard of living and move beyond merely surviving is to create your own unique product or service that you offer to increasing numbers of people in exchange for the things of value that you desire. This simple formula applies to countries as well as people. A self-sufficient economy has its own products or services of value to export to the world. Similarly, a self-sufficient individual has something of value to exchange in the global marketplace. That thing of value is based on your natural talent, skill, or interest—in other words, your passion!

Scenes for discussion at your next dinner party

Opening Scene 1: Many years ago, I was offered many thousands of dollars to do *a Turn Your Passion into Profit* workshop at a major venue in the states. I turned it down. Why? The workshop was being sponsored by a cigarette company. I just couldn't see myself standing on stage with a big cigarette ad on a banner behind me. Even though I would be delivering information on self-empowerment and business success, I would be associated with and indirectly supporting the improved brand-identity, and agenda of the sponsoring company.

Cut to Scene 2: I once won a trip for two to a tropical island. Part of the requirements and terms of accepting the prize was that my name and/or photo could be used in future promotions for the company. The sponsor was an alcohol company. I refused the prize for the same reasons as for Scene 1 above.

Fade to Scene 3: A few days ago, someone asked me a question.

Him: Walt, what's your religion?

Me: That's a leading question.

Him: I mean, are you a Christian?

Me: *[I paused to find the right answer.]*

Him: Well, are you Muslim?

Me: Those aren't the only options, you know. The question is not as bad as the ever-popular 'Have you stopped beating your wife?' trap, but it's almost like asking, 'What kind of gun do you carry?' It starts with an underlying presumption that doesn't step back far enough in objectivity.

Him: Ok, well do you believe in God?

Me: Again, the question is flawed. Of course, if I was forced to answer yes, or no, I would say yes, but that really doesn't tell you anything about me. For one thing, you don't know whether we actually share the same concept of God. My god could be a turnip, for all you know.

What's more important, for me, when I meet or do business with someone is not to determine what particular religion (if any) she claims to belong to, but to see if she shares the same sense of personal ethics and moral compass that makes us compatible. Many crimes against humanity have been committed in the name of religion. Many Klansmen claim to be good Christians, and many terrorists claim to be good Muslims.

It's a person's overall belief system and if their actions are consistent with those beliefs that matter to me.

Dissolve to Scene 4

A few nights ago, some friends and I had a lively discussion about different products to sell in business. Their own view was that a business owner merely fulfills a need for the public.

Them: If the public wants processed meat, sell 'em processed meat. If they want cheeseburgers, sell 'em cheeseburgers. If they want cigarettes, sell 'em those too. One product is just as worthy as another.

Walt: But what if I believe smoking cigarettes is both personally, publicly and environmentally harmful? And, what if I don't believe people should kill and eat animals?

Them: People have a choice. You're not forcing them to buy it.

Even though as the seller, I'm not the one doing the killing or smoking, wouldn't I be violating my own personal ethics by selling something that contributes to the killing of animals and contributes to people's (as well as my own "secondhand") deteriorating health? Heck, just so you know where I stand: If for some reason I had a can of soda lying around my house, I wouldn't offer it to a guest to drink since I believe it's poison, even if *they* think it's food. We (myself included) all admit I'm a bit strange that way.)

That's just my opinion

So my own choices are guided less by how much money there is to make, but simply if I feel good about what I am promoting. Does it fit with my own sense of what is right and wrong? In dealing with people from many cultures and creeds, it seems that there is an underlying belief that business is merely about filling a need. And that "good" businesses to get into—meaning those businesses that can make big money—are inherently and necessarily those that pander to vices, or not-so-healthy desires.

The difference between morals and ethics.

Now, before I ask you to consider where you stand on this issue, let me offer a few definitions.

Morals are what a society decides are in its best survival interests.

This varies from society to society, and what's frowned upon by one society can be perfectly morally acceptable in another. A moral code, therefore, is a series of agreements to which a person has subscribed to guarantee the survival of a specific group—the group, in this case, being society.

A survival action is a moral action. And those things are considered immoral which are considered contrasurvival—or contrary to the survival of the group

Ethics, on the other hand, is the study of the general nature of morals and of the specific moral choices to be made by the individual in his relationship with others. It's based on one's personal beliefs about what is right and wrong. An ethical code, therefore, is the set of certain restrictions indulged in to better the manner of conduct of one's life. A person conducts himself according to such a code because he wants to, or because he feels he is proud enough or decent enough or civilized enough to so conduct himself. Ethics is a personal thing.

So, for example, if the society through agreement, and enforced by its laws, agrees that it is immoral and therefore illegal to grow and sell your own herbs, or to offer a service that is deemed against the group's best interest, then it can become a personal ethical challenge when you engage in that activity. At the same time, just because something is deemed acceptable by the society and its laws (say the death penalty), doesn't mean your personal sense of ethics makes you comfortable with engaging in or supporting that activity, and that is the point of discussion for today's column.

THE SAIPANPRENEUR PROJECT

Creating economic success for the CNMI

By WALT F.J. GOODRIDGE
Special to the Saipan Tribune

Send article suggestions, entrepreneur nominations and feedback about this article to walt@passionprofit.com.

So, where do you draw the line?

Here are some questions I'd like to challenge you to consider today:

- How far will I go in the furtherance of my business agenda?
- Where are my own sense of personal ethics and moral compass guiding me?
- What does my belief system—my religion, as it were—tell me is right and wrong for me to do?
- As a business owner, do I simply provide a need, and simply sell whatever is "legal" to sell regardless of whether I personally believe in it?
- Or do I offer the world something that moves it in a positive and uplifting direction, according to my own beliefs and passion?
- Do, can I, should I personally sell a product I know to be harmful?
- [Personal] As a coach, do I help others succeed in business if they choose to sell such products that are not in synch with my own beliefs?

Just some things to chat about at your next social gathering, and when you do, please include me in the discussion!

P.S.: Of course, all of this matters only if your belief system is out of synch with that of your target audience. If, to use the examples above, you have absolutely no personal issues with assassinating animals, bellowing smoke to the detriment of your own and others' health, chugging down a pint of brew and killing a few brain cells every now and then, then today's column is not for you! (Can you sense a bit of a bias, there?)

■ ■ ■

***Note**: Ever wanted to direct your friends and family to a set of websites that said good things about Saipan? Do what I do: send them to www.bestofsaipan.com!*

Note: Fans and followers of the book, *Chicken Feathers and Garlic Skin: Diary of a Chinese Garment Factory Girl on Saipan* may now find copies here on Saipan at Fu Dogs & Qi (pronounced chi), Saipan's only Asian Antiques Store, located on the first floor of the Nauru Building (the "360 building") in Susupe.

■ ■ ■

Until next week, remember, success is a journey, not a destination!

Walt F.J. Goodridge is author of 15 books including Turn Your Passion Into Profit. *Walt offers coaching and workshops to help people pursue and profit from their passions. Originally from the island of Jamaica, Walt has grown several successful businesses in the US, and now makes his home here in Saipan. To learn more about the Saipanpreneur Project and Walt's philosophy and formula visit www.saipanpreneur.com and www.passionprofit.com*

Letters to the Editor

Racist remarks

After reading her letter to the editor, I urge Ruth Tighe to volunteer to testify in defense of Judge Govendo, assuming that she is a frequent spectator in Govendo's family law court, so that she can put in the judicial record her scathing criticism of the Chamorro judge Ramona V. Manglona, if she insists on blaming her. But before she does that, she should rehabilitate her lack of memory of the facts that have been reported by the news media.

Contrary to Ms. Tighe's recollection, it is not a Guam judge who will hear Govendo's ethics case. It will be the Supreme Court, to be composed of Chief Justice Demapan, Associate Justice Castro, and another justice pro tempore to be named later. It was a retired Guam judge (Judge Benson) who investigated the ethics violation complaint and who gave the findings that there is sufficient evidence to try Govendo for ethics violation. In his findings, the retired judge implied that Govendo was making racist remarks, and whether or not he did it purposely would have to be decided by his past remarks in certain adoption cases, which would show a pattern of his racial prejudice against Filipinos, especially children. In those news reports, which Ms. Tighe must have forgotten, Govendo was quoted as saying words to the effect that he would like to drive out of the CNMI local citizens who are as bad as Castillo, but he could not do so because they are U.S. citizens.

Ms. Tighe should also reconsider her reliance on the Oxford Dictionary. This place is not the U.S mainland or Mexico, where the dictionary got its source of the word's meaning. The word "muchacho" has a special meaning here in the CNMI and in the Philippines. It means "slave" or "servant." Govendo did not say the word in the U.S. mainland or in Mexico. He said it here in the CNMI in front of Chamorros and Filipinos and his statements were directed to a Filipino. Thank you.

Nelida B. Atalig
Capitol Hill, Saipan

Thanks, Cinta!

Thank you Cinta Kaipat for doing your job with regards to overstaying alien workers getting conditional umbrella permits. It should have never happened in the first place. Now I'm not a law degree graduate but I know for a fact the 628 overstaying alien workers were given a chance before Nov. 28, 2009, to turn themselves in at the Labor office to find legitimate employment and correct their status if their were any deficiencies found in their labor application forms, but the overstayers chose to wait until the last minute leading up to the start of federalization.

Entry permits should be given to legal alien workers, not illegal overstaying workers. The Attorney General's Office and the Department of Labor need to open their lines of communication in the interest of all CNMI residents. Thanks again, Cinta Kaipat!

John D.L.G. Demapan
Dandan, Saipan

Satellite image and accompanying information are provided by the National Weather Service. For an updated weather forecast, visit the National Weather Service Guam Homepage: www.prh.noaa.gov/guam/

The Weather

5-Day Forecast for Saipan and Tinian

TODAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY	SUNDAY
Mostly cloudy with scattered showers. Northeast winds 10 to 15 mph.	Mostly cloudy with scattered showers. East winds 10 to 15 mph.	Mostly cloudy with scattered showers.	Mostly cloudy with scattered showers.	Partly cloudy with isolated showers.
▲85° ▼77°	▲85° ▼76°	▲86° ▼76°	▲86° ▼77°	▲87° ▼77°

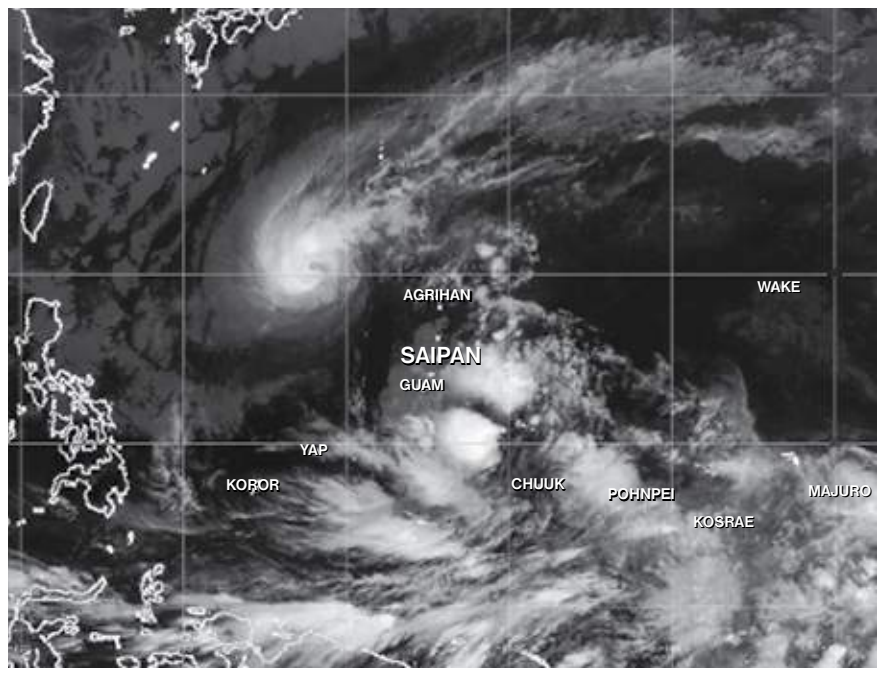
Micronesia

Guam and Rota	Mostly Cloudy	▲86	▼77
Palau	Cloudy	▲87	▼78
Yap	Cloudy	▲86	▼77
Chuuk	Thunderstorms	▲88	▼77
Pohnpei	Thunderstorms	▲85	▼77
Kosrae	Mostly Cloudy	▲89	▼76
Majuro	Mostly Cloudy	▲86	▼76

Around The Globe

Auckland	Showers	▲75	▼68
Beijing	Partly Sunny	▲45	▼27
Hong Kong	Partly Sunny	▲75	▼66
Honolulu	Mostly Sunny	▲81	▼67
London	Partly Sunny	▲46	▼41
Los Angeles	Sunny	▲68	▼48
Manila	Partly Sunny	▲84	▼73
Melbourne	Partly Sunny	▲72	▼52
Miami	Partly Sunny	▲81	▼73
New York	Partly Sunny	▲47	▼41
Osaka	Sunny	▲60	▼43
Paris	Cloudy	▲43	▼38
Pusan	Sunny	▲56	▼36
Rome	Cloudy	▲55	▼40
Salem	Partly Sunny	▲48	▼32
San Francisco	Partly Sunny	▲63	▼42
Seoul	Partly Sunny	▲48	▼34
Tokyo	Sunny	▲58	▼45
Washington, DC	Mostly Sunny	▲54	▼40

Yesterday's Satellite Image



PICTURE TIME: 1:00PM, TUESDAY, DECEMBER 1, 2009
Western North Pacific between equator and 25N from 130E to 180.

Typhoon Nida (26W) is centered northwest of Guam at 20N138E and is moving northwest at 3 mph with maximum sustained winds of 85 mph. Scattered showers and isolated thunderstorms are found within 135 miles of the center. For more information on Typhoon Nida, see bulletins issued by the JTWC under WMO header WTPN31 PGTW and advisories issued by the Nationwal Weather Service under WMO header WTPQ31 PGUM. A weak circulation southeast of Majuro at about 4N174E is producing scattered showers and isolated thunderstorms between the equator and 8N from 168E to 179E.

Tides

Saipan Harbor		
1:14 AM Today	Low Tide:	0.6 Feet
8:22 AM Today	High Tide:	2.0 Feet
1:34 PM Today	Low Tide:	1.3 Feet
6:28 PM Today	High Tide:	2.0 Feet

Sunrise/Sunset

Today	6:28 AM	5:45 PM
Thursday	6:28 AM	5:45 PM
Friday	6:29 AM	5:46 PM
Saturday	6:29 AM	5:46 PM
Sunday	6:30 AM	5:46 PM

Moonrise/Moonset

Today	5:35 PM	6:04 AM
Thursday	6:39 PM	7:08 AM
Friday	7:44 PM	8:11 AM
Saturday	8:49 PM	9:09 AM
Sunday	9:52 PM	10:02 AM

GET YOUR PICTURES AND ANNOUNCEMENTS PUBLISHED—FOR FREE

The *Saipan Tribune* accepts for FREE publication the following:

PICTURES

- ISLAND SNAPSHOTS
  Birthdays, baptisms, christenings, family gatherings, reunions, club activities, and other community-related events.
- BIRTHDAY GREETINGS
  A way for families and friends to greet their loved ones, accompanied by a picture of the person celebrating his/her birthday.
- BUSINESS
  Corporate donations, volunteer work, promotions, granting of awards, team-building exercises, meetings and other activities by members of the business community.
- SAMU'T SARI
  Pictures from the islands' Filipino community, primarily focusing on Filipino activities, gatherings, get-togethers, volunteer work, etc.
- TRAVELOGUE
  Pictures of off-island travels. Contributors may submit up to 10 pictures for consideration.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

- COMMUNITY BRIEFS
  Announcements of upcoming activities of organizations, community clubs, government agencies, and private companies.
- CAMPUS BULLETIN
  Announcements of upcoming activities in public and private schools, as well as calendar of activities. May include PTSA meetings, enrollment procedures.

REQUIREMENTS

For pictures:

- Photos should be original and not copyrighted. Contributors must have the right to allow the *Saipan Tribune* to publish the pictures.
- Digital pictures should be high-resolution (minimum of 800kb).
- Must have complete details (who, what, where, when), the name of contact person, and phone number.
- Photos must have been taken in the last two months.
- For birthday greetings, must be submitted no later than 12 noon of the previous day to make it to next day's edition.

For announcements:

- Must have complete details (who, what, where, when), the name of contact person, and a phone number.
- Must be submitted no later than 12 noon to make it to next day's edition.

HOW TO SUBMIT

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- Fax: (670) 235-3740
- Mail: PMB 34, P.O. Box 10001, Saipan, CNMI 96950
- Drop off: 2nd Floor, JP Center, Beach Road, Garapan, Saipan
  To check if contributions are received, call (670) 235-6397, 235-2440, 235-8747

POLICY

- The *Saipan Tribune* reserves the right to accept or reject a contribution for publication; the right to edit all contributions, the date of publication, size of the picture, and page placement; and the right to publish contributions in print, electronic, or other media formats.
- The *Saipan Tribune* will decide how often community announcements are going to be published.
- For Travelogue, the *Saipan Tribune* reserves the right to choose which pictures to publish.

NMI CRIME STOPPERS

Anonymous tips can now be submitted through the following:

- Call 234-7272 (PARA) on any telephone
- *11 on any PTI cellular phone
- Log on to the internet at www.nmicrimestoppers.com

NEWS DESK For news tips, corrections and requests for news coverage, call (670) 235-NEWS (6397), 235-2440, fax 235,3740. E-mail: editor@saipantribune.com. Website:www.saipantribune.com.

CUSTOMER SERVICE For inquiries, purchase of back issues and complaints, call (670) 235-8747, 235-2440, fax 235-3740.

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ADVERTISING For inquiries contact (670) 235-2769. E-mail: sales@saipantribune.com

FLIGHT SCHEDULE AS OF DECEMBER 1, 2009

DEPARTURES

SAIPAN-ROTA (ROP)

C09597	11:30am	12:05pm	1, 7

ROTA (ROP)-GUAM

C09597	12:40pm	1:10pm	1, 7

SAIPAN-GUAM

C09317	4:45am	5:35am	Daily
C09313	8:30am	9:20am	Daily
C09597	11:30am	1:10pm	1, 7 via ROP
C09601	12:20pm	1:10pm	4, 5
C09603	3:15pm	4:05pm	Daily
C09605	6:20pm	7:10pm	Daily
C09599	9:20pm	10:10pm	Daily

SAIPAN-NAGOYA (NGO)

NW287	6:00am	7:30pm	Daily via NRT

SAIPAN-NARITA (NRT)

NW287	6:00am	8:40am	Daily
NW297	4:45pm	7:30pm	Daily

SAIPAN-BUSAN (PUS)

OZ608	3:20am	6:50am	1, 5

SAIPAN-SEOUL (ICN)

OZ604	2:10am	6:00am	1
OZ604	2:40am	6:30am	2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7
OZ606	3:20pm	7:00pm	2, 4, 6, 7

SAIPAN-SHANGHAI (PVG)

FM844	2:50am	5:40am	2, 6

SAIPAN-GUANGZHOU (CAN)

CZ3008	3:30am	6:40am	2, 6

SAIPAN-MANILA

OZ604/701	2:10am	11:50am	1 via ICN
OZ604/701	2:40am	11:50am	2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7 via ICN
OZ604/703	2:50am	11:25am	2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7 via ICN
OZ608/705	3:20am	13:30am+1	1, 5 via PUS
C09603/933	3:15pm	9:40pm	Daily via GUM
C09605/933	6:20pm	9:40pm	Daily via GUM
C09599/PR111	9:20pm	7:50am+1	1, 3, 5, 6, 7 via GUM

SAIPAN-HONG KONG

OZ604/721	2:10am	12:00pm	1 via ICN
OZ604/721	2:40am	12:00pm	2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7 via ICN
OZ606/749	3:20pm	11:00pm	4, 6, 7 via ICN

ARRIVALS

ROTA (ROP)-SAIPAN

C09598	3:30am	4:05am	5, 6
C09312	1:20pm	1:55pm	6

GUAM-ROTA (ROP)

C09598	2:20am	2:50am	5, 6
C09312	12:10pm	12:40pm	6

GUAM-SAIPAN

C09598	2:20am	4:05am	5, 6 via ROP
C09316	2:20am	3:10am	1, 2, 3, 4, 7
C09596	7:00am	7:50am	Daily
C09600	10:05am	10:55am	1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 7
C09312	12:10pm	1:55pm	6 via ROP
C09602	1:50pm	2:40pm	1, 4, 5, 7
C09604	4:50pm	5:40pm	Daily
C09606	8:00pm	8:50pm	Daily

NAGOYA (NGO)-SAIPAN

NW288	12:05pm	1:20am+1	Daily via NRT

NARITA (NRT)-SAIPAN

NW298	10:05pm	2:50pm	Daily
NW288	8:45pm	1:20am+1	Daily

BUSAN (PUS)-SAIPAN

OZ607	9:00pm	2:10am+1	4, 7

SEOUL (ICN)-SAIPAN

OZ605	9:00am	2:20pm	2, 4, 6, 7
OZ603	7:40pm	1:10am+1	7
OZ603	8:10pm	1:30am+1	1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6

SHANGHAI (PVG)-SAIPAN

FM843	7:15pm	1:50am+1	1, 5

GUANGZHOU (CAN)-SAIPAN

CZ3007	7:30pm	2:40am+1	1, 5

MANILA-SAIPAN

OZ706/607	3:35am	2:10am+1	4, 7 via PUS
OZ702/603	1:10pm	1:10am+1	7 via ICN
OZ702/603	1:10pm	1:30am+1 via ICN	1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6
PR110/C09596	10:10pm	7:50am+1 via GUM	1, 3, 5, 6, 7
C0934/9596	11:10pm	7:50am+1	Daily via GUM
OZ704/605	11:55pm	2:20pm+1	1, 3, 5, 6 via ICN
OZ716/605	12:30am	2:20pm	4 via ICN

HONG KONG-SAIPAN

OZ724/605	12:30am	2:20pm	2,4,6,7 via ICN
OZ750/605	1:00am	2:20pm	2,4,6,7 via ICN
OZ722/603	1:30pm	1:10am+1	7 via ICN
OZ722/603	1:30pm	1:30am+1	1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6 via ICN

Editor's Note: Days: Monday (1), Tuesday (2), Wednesday (3), Thursday (4), Friday (5), Saturday (6) and Sunday (7); CO: Continental; FM: Shanghai Airlines; PR: Philippine Airlines; NW: Northwest; OZ: Asiana
ETD: Estimated Time of Departure; ETA: Estimated Time of Arrival. The Saipan Tribune is not responsible for any changes in the schedule.)

FREEDOM AIR FLIGHT SCHEDULE

Airline	ETD	ETA	Frequency
Guam-Rota			
FRE 100	7:00am	7:30am	Daily
Rota-Saipan			
FRE 100	7:50am	8:20am	Daily
Saipan-Rota			
FRE 200	9:00am	9:30am	Daily
Rota-Guam			
FRE 200	9:50am	10:15am	Daily
Guam-Rota			
FRE 300	4:00pm	4:30pm	Daily
Rota-Saipan			
FRE 300	4:50pm	5:25pm	Daily
Saipan-Rota			
FRE 400	6:00pm	6:30pm	Daily
Rota-Guam			
FRE 400	6:45pm	7:15pm	Daily
Saipan-Tinian			
FRE 101	6:45am	6:55am	Daily
FRE 103	7:30am	7:40am	Daily
FRE 105	8:00am	8:10am	Daily
FRE 107	8:40am	8:50am	Daily
FRE 109*	9:10am	9:20am	Daily
FRE 111*	10:45am	10:55am	Daily

Airline	ETD	ETA	Frequency
FRE 113	11:40am	11:50am	Daily
FRE 115	1:00pm	1:10pm	Daily
FRE 117	2:30pm	2:40pm	Daily
FRE 119	4:00pm	4:10pm	Daily
FRE 121	4:40pm	4:50pm	Daily
FRE 123 *	5:40pm	5:50pm	Daily
FRE 125 *	6:00pm	6:10pm	Daily
Tinian-Saipan w/ connecting flights to Rota or Guam**			
FRE 102	7:05am	7:15am	Daily
FRE 104	7:50am	8:00am	Daily
FRE 106**	8:20am	8:30am	Daily
FRE 108**	9:00am	9:10am	Daily
FRE 110	10:00am	10:10am	Daily
FRE 112	11:05am	11:15am	Daily
FRE 114	12:00pm	12:10pm	Daily
FRE 116	1:30pm	1:40pm	Daily
FRE 118	2:50pm	3:00pm	Daily
FRE 120**	4:20pm	4:30pm	Daily
FRE 122**	5:00pm	5:10pm	Daily
FRE 124	6:05pm	6:15pm	Daily
FRE 126	6:20pm	6:30pm	Daily

US House panel sets hearing on Guam war claims

WASHINGTON, D.C.—U.S. Rep. Madeleine Z. Bordallo (D-GU) said yesterday that the House Armed Services Committee will hold a hearing on assessing the Guam war claims process today, Dec. 2, 2009.

Bordallo

Rep. Ike Skelton of Missouri, chairman of the House Armed Services Committee, convened the hearing at the request of Bordallo and in accordance with an agreement reached regarding Guam war claims in the National Defense Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2010.

The House Armed Services Committee invited Guam Gov. Felix Camacho and Speaker Judith Won Pat to testify at the hearing. Unfortunately, both are unable to attend due to prior obligations but the committee, at the request of Bordallo, has agreed to allow Sens. Ben Pangelinan and Frank Blas Jr. of the 30th Guam Legislature to testify in lieu of the governor and speaker.

Assistant Secretary Anthony "Tony" Babauta of the U.S. Department of the Interior, Mauricio Tamargo, former chairman of the Guam War Claims Review Commission; and Tom Barcinas, a survivor of the occupation of Guam during World War II, have also been invited by Skelton to present testimony and are scheduled to attend. Barcinas has agreed to testify before the committee and will discuss the importance of Guam war claims from a survivor's point of view.

The hearing will focus on the issue of Guam war claims and its impact on community support for the military buildup. The hearing will not focus specifically on H.R. 44 as the Guam World War II Loyalty Recognition Act has already passed the House of Representatives in February and committees do not hold hearings on legislation that has already passed their respective body. The testimony and questions asked during the hearing will continue to build on the legislative record of Guam war claims.

"This hearing will continue to build on the legislative history for the issue of Guam war claims and help to better position ourselves for passing this legislation in the Senate in the future," Bordallo said. "I thank Chairman Ike Skelton and Ranking Member Buck McKeon for convening this hearing as it is an important step towards resolving the issue of Guam war claims. This hearing demonstrates the House of Representative's continued commitment to the importance of Guam war claims legislation. I appreciate Chairman Skelton's leadership in convening this hearing and adhering to the agreement made during conference negotiations on the FY10 NDAA to hold further hearings on this matter. I look forward to hearing from the witnesses at the hearing [today] and to continuing the fight to bring the issue of Guam war claims to President Obama's desk for his signature." ***(PR)***

SPIRIT OF GIVING CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

D&W Enterprises donates cash, amounting to $1,000, to CHC Volunteers on Nov. 24, 2009, during the association's party. Shown here turning over the $1,000 check is Tess Ebuen of D&W.

31 students from Nagaoka City visit Saipan

Nagaoka International Exchange Association brought 31 junior high school students from Nagaoka City, Japan to Saipan on Nov. 24 for a cultural exchange with Mt. Carmel School students.

During their stay, the students introduced Japanese culture such as origami and Japanese games to local students and participated in Mt. Carmel's Thanksgiving Mass.

Besides a one-night home stay in the homes of Mt. Carmel students, the exchange students from Japan also visited war memorials such as the Last Command Post where they laid wreaths for fallen soldiers and their countrymen. They also sat down for a lecture on World War II history and had time to tour Saipan's beautiful beaches and also did some shopping. The group stayed at the Saipan Grand Hotel.

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Junior high school students from Nagaoka City, Japan interact with their counterparts at the Mt. Carmel School during the group's cultural exchange visit to Saipan on Nov. 24.

The 31 Japanese exchange students were led by Nagaoka City International Center director Tomonobu Haga, who has traveled many countries and helped bring Japanese exchange students to Saipan for years.

The association has been actively promoting cross-cultural understanding among Nagaoka citizens, especially for the youth, who are its future leaders, through many student exchanges programs.

This year marked the 10th year that junior high school students from Nagaoka City visited Saipan. The association said the students greatly benefited from the exchange program. ***(PR)***

NMC English and Math placement tests schedule

The Northern Marianas College will be conducting the English and Math placement tests on the following dates:

English Placement Test Schedule

- Dec. 16: 1pm – 4pm, Room D-1
- Dec. 17: 5pm – 8pm, Room D-1
- Jan. 5: 1pm – 4pm, Room A-6
- Jan. 7: 5pm – 8pm, Room D-1
- Jan. 12: 9am – 12pm, Room A-6
- Jan. 13: 1pm – 4pm, Room A-6
- Jan. 14: 5pm – 8pm, Room A-6
- Jan. 15: 9am – 12pm, Room A-6

Math Placement Test Schedule

- Jan. 5: 10am – 12pm, Room TBA
  5pm – 7pm, Room TBA
- Jan. 7: 10am – 12pm, Room TBA
  5pm – 7pm, Room TBA
- Jan. 12: 10am – 12pm, Room TBA
- Jan. 14: 5pm – 7pm, Room TBA

Those who wish to take courses at NMC must take the placement tests. Registration for NMC's Spring 2010 semester will begin on Jan. 11, 2010.

There is a $25 fee for each placement test that must be paid in advance at the NMC Cashier (M-F, 8:30 am - 4:00 pm). No one will be allowed into the testing room without proof of payment (a receipt for the placement test fee, or the NMC application fee). Payment for the application fee will cover the English placement test fee.

Test takers must bring a valid photo ID (driver's license, passport or school ID) and pencils. No admittance to the testing room will be allowed after the starting time.

Calculators may be used when taking the math placement test. NMC students are not allowed to take the math placement test more than once. The only exception to this condition is for NMC students who have NOT taken a math class within one year of taking the math placement test.

If you have any questions about the English placement test, call the Languages & Humanities Dept. at (670) 234-5498 ext. 1203 or 1242.

If you have any questions about the math placement test, call the Sciences, Mathematics, Health & Athletics Dept. at (670) 234-5498 ext. 1200 or 1212.

For additional information about the placement tests and registration for the Spring 2010 semester, log on to www.nmcnet.edu. ***(NMC)***

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COMMUNITY BRIEFS

Local Census office sets job fairs on Saipan

The local Census office is recruiting over 350 part-time workers and will be hosting a 2010 CNMI Census Job Fair on Saipan. The Job Fair will take place over four days in several villages to ensure that residents have the opportunity to apply for the available positions.

Dates, times and locations to complete an application and be tested are as follows:

■ Dec. 5, from 11am to 4pm, at the Multi-Purpose Center in Susupe

■ Dec. 7, from 5pm to 8pm, at Saipan Southern High School Cafeteria in Koblerville

■ Dec. 9, from 5pm to 8pm, at Cha Cha Oceanview Junior High School Cafeteria in Kagman

■ Dec. 10, from 5pm to 8pm, at Tanapag Elementary School Cafeteria in Tanapag

Applications can be picked up at the Local Census Office or at OPM and completed in advance of the job fair. Bring the completed application to the job fair. Office hours are Monday to Friday, 8am – 5pm and the office is located on International Terminal Loop next to the Saipan International Airport. For more information, call the Local Census Office at 288-3027/23. ***(U.S. Census)***

KagES report cards distribution set

Students of the Kagman Elementary School will be dismissed early on Thursday, Dec. 3, 2009. Students will be released at 12pm. The purpose of the early dismissal is to make up for the 1st Quarter Report Cards distribution and teacher/parent conference that was cancelled on Nov. 20, 2009 due to PSS school lockdowns.

The 1st Quarter Report Cards will be distributed from 1:30pm to 4:30 pm in the child(ren)'s respective class room. Parents and guardians are highly encouraged to pick up your child(ren)'s report card and meet with their child(ren)'s teacher and discuss their academic progress. ***(PR)***

Monthly Beautify CNMI meeting set

The monthly Beautify CNMI meeting is this Thursday, Dec. 3, 2009, at 3:30pm at the Division of Environmental Quality on Middle Road in Gualo Rai. The winner of the bumper sticker and slogan contests will be announced at the meeting. The winner gets $150 and 50 stickers to share with friends and family.

On Sunday morning PDM Promoters will lead the 39th consecutive monthly cleanup of the Garapan Tourist District. Meet up at the American Memorial Park parking lot at 8am. Trash bags and gloves will be provided. ***(PR)***

DEQ Monthly Cleanup Brigade

The Division of Environmental Quality cleanup brigade will be picking up trash at San Roque Beach in San Roque this coming Saturday.

If you would like to volunteer your time to clean and beautify our island, meet with the group on Dec, 5, 2009, at 8am at the back of San Roque Elementary School. Volunteers will split into groups and go north or south, cleaning the beach until 10am and break for drinks and then continue, if needed.

This month, outstanding brigade volunteers who participated in at least 10 monthly cleanups will receive a brigade cap and those who participated in at least three cleanups will receive a green brigade t-shirt.

For more information about volunteering, contact DEQ at 664-8500. ***(DEQ)***

Puengin Inetnon on Friday

Puengin Inetnon will be held again this Friday, Dec. 4, 2009, at the Kagman Community Center's parking lot. Canton Restaurant, Lynn's BBQ, Fong's Bakery, Champ's Shave Ice, and Bali Fashion will be selling food, drinks, snacks, clothing, and crafts. The Library's Bookmobile will be available for the public to check out books. Puengin Inetnon is Kagman's Friday Night Market that will take place every government payday. It will begin at 4:30pm and end at 10pm. Puengin Inetnon is a family oriented event. Alcohol will be prohibited from the event. All are welcome. Come attend Puengin Inetnon for some family fun in Kagman. Interested vendors can call Jesse Torres at 256-7678 for applications. ***(PR)***

Kagman Saturday Flea Market

Kagman's Saturday Flea Market will be on Saturday, Dec. 5, 2009 at the Kagman Community Center's parking lot. It will be held every government payday Saturday. You may only sell your used items. Tents and tables will be provided. Interested sellers can call Jesse Torres at 256-7678 for more info. ***(PR)***

NMI-US relation on Marianas Agupa

Marianas Agupa, a Chamorro talk show program hosted by Glenn H. Manglona, will feature Vicente N. Santos, former vice chairman of the Northern Marianas Political Status Commission, on Dec. 5, 2009, Saturday, between 9:30am and 10:15am, on Magic 100.3 FM. Santos will be discussing key issues of the Covenant, the implication of the federal lawsuit that the CNMI lost in federal court, and the chances of renegotiating the relationship with the United States. Simultaneous Internet broadcast via www.magic100radio.com will be available. For more information, e-mail marianasagupa@gmail.com. ***(PR)***

Chamber holds monthly meeting today

David Gulick, the district director of the U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services, will be speaking to the Saipan Chamber of Commerce during its general membership meeting today, Dec. 2, 2009, at the Saipan World Resort's Royal Taga Ballroom. The Chamber will also hear from Juan S. Borja, the local U.S. Census Bureau manager about the 2010 CNMI census as well as an upcoming Census Bureau job fair in the CNMI. Registration and lunch will begin at 11:30am, and the meeting will begin at noon. The meeting is $15 for members, $20 for guests of members, and $25 for the public. ***(PR)***

John Gonzales LIVE schedule

■ Dec. 2, 2009 LIVE (Replays on Dec. 7 and Dec. 8), from 7pm to 8 pm. Topic: H1N1 Flu School Vaccination Campaign

■ Dec. 9, 2009 LIVE (Replays on Dec. 14 and 15), from 7pm to 8pm. Topic: Inspiration and Success from 2009 PSS Education Day Winners

Text 285-META (6382), call 287-4230, or e-mail johngonzales@pticom.com for your questions or comments. ***(PR)***

Motorists cautioned about cyclists

PIC would like to notify to all motorists on the morning of Dec. 5 to be particularly cautious from 6:30am to 9:30am on the northbound lane of Isa Drive near San Vicente, Papago, Kagman and Capital Hill where the bikers will be riding in packs. There will be cones to indicate the bike lane as well as DPS officers and official media vehicles. If motorists can circumvent these portions of Isa Drive during the above times, it will prevent heavy traffic congestion and enhance safety for all. ***(PR)***

December attractions lined up for the Paseo

PDM Promoters Inc., in collaboration with the First Lady's Vision Foundation, Women's Affairs Office, and Office of the Governor will kick off a monthlong series of activities at the Paseo de Marianas with a Christmas tree decorating contest on Dec. 2 using recycled materials. The competition will involve 15 schools on island; cash prizes await the winning school teams. Entries will be judged according to holiday theme, attractiveness, creativity and design, and durability of the display

On Dec. 3, students from Rota and Tinian will get the chance to bag $50 each for the "Third Annual My Holiday Greetings to Our Visitors" drawing contest. Second prize winners will get $30 each; $20 each for third placers; and all participating students will receive a small gift from the organizers.

A tree lighting ceremony is also scheduled on Thursday, Dec. 3, to be followed by programs and entertainment at the Garapan Street Market. Announcement of winners for the contests is scheduled on Dec. 17. ***(PR)***

Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands
State Board of Education
Public School System
P. O. Box 501370, Saipan, MP 96950

REQUEST FOR PROPOSAL
RFP 09-036

"DESIGN AND DEVELOPMENT OF A WEBSITE FOR PSS CENTRAL OFFICE AND 20 INDIVIDUAL SCHOOL SITES"

The CNMI Public School System is soliciting competitive sealed proposals from individuals or firms interested in **"Designing and Developing a Website for PSS Central Office and 20 Individual School Sites"**. Detailed information on the scope of work is available beginning November 18, 2009 at the PSS Procurement & Supply Office located on the 3rd floor of the NMI Retirement Fund Building, Capitol Hill, Saipan, MP 96950.

There will be a Pre-Proposal Meeting on Wednesday, December 9, 2009 at 10:00 A.M. at the COE Conference Room, 3rd floor Retirement Fund Building. Questions must be in writing and addressed to Joe Torres, E-rate Coordinator via fax to 670.994-3791 or e-mail to joe.torres@pss.cnmi.mp no later than December 12, 2009.

Proposals shall be in a sealed envelope face marked "RFP 09-036" containing (1) original and three (3) copies and submitted to the PSS Procurement and Supply Office no later than Friday, December 18, 2009 at 10:30 A.M. Any proposal submitted after the aforementioned date and time will not be accepted.

/S/ Rita A. Sablan, Ed.D.
Commissioner of Education

/S/ Robert Florian
P&S Officer

Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands
State Board of Education
Public School System
P. O. Box 501370, Saipan, MP 96950

REQUEST FOR PROPOSALS
PSS RFP 09-037

"Design and Development of a Data Management System for the Public School System"

The CNMI Public School System is soliciting competitive sealed proposals for the **"Design and Development of a Data Management System for the Public School System.** The Scope of Work and Proposal Package is available beginning November 18, 2009 at the PSS Procurement & Supply Office located on the 3rd floor of the NM Retirement Fund Building, Capitol Hill, Saipan, CNMI.

There will be a Pre-proposal Meeting for Interested Proposers on Monday, December 7, 2009 at 9:30 AM. in the 3rd Floor Conference room in the NMI Retirement Fund Building.

Questions may be faxed to Joe Torres, PSS E-Rate Coordinator on 670.664.3791 or e-mailed to "joe.torres@pss.cnmi.mp" **no later than December 11, 2009.**

Proposals shall be in a sealed envelope marked "PSS RFP 09-037" containing one (1) original and three (3) copies and submitted to the PSS Procurement and Supply Office **no later than December 18, 2009 at 10:00 AM.** Any proposal submitted after the aforementioned date and time will not be accepted under any circumstances.

/S/ Rita A. Sablan, Ed.D.
Commissioner of Education

/S/ Robert Florian
Procurement Officer

Business

GE, Vivendi deal paves way for NBC sale to Comcast

PHILADELPHIA (AP)—General Electric Co.'s agreement to buy out the rest of NBC Universal paves the way for it to sell control of the TV and movie company to Comcast Corp. in a deal that promises to reshape the entertainment industry.

GE will pay slightly less than the $6 billion that French media conglomerate Vivendi SA hoped to command for its 20 percent stake in NBC Universal, a person with knowledge of the talks told The Associated Press late Monday. The person spoke on condition of anonymity because the negotiations were private and the companies' agreement has not yet been formalized.

The news lessens the uncertainty surrounding GE's planned sale of a 51 percent stake in NBC Universal to Comcast, the largest U.S. cable provider. That deal, valued at $30 billion, would make Philadelphia-based Comcast one of the nation's largest entertainment companies rivaling the heft of its former takeover target, The Walt Disney Co.

AP

This photo taken Aug. 21, 2009 shows the NBC studios headquarters in New York.

An agreement was supposed to have been announced weeks ago, but GE's talks with Vivendi have been taking longer than expected.

Under terms of its minority ownership of NBC Universal, Vivendi has an annual window to sell its stake, with GE holding the right to first refusal. Vivendi could use the money—two weeks ago, it invested $4.2 billion to take control of Brazilian telecom operator GVT.

Worries that Dubai washing its hands of debt woes

DUBAI, United Arab Emirates (AP)—If global investors were looking for reassurances from Dubai that it would stand behind its massive, debt-swamped investment conglomerate, they got none Monday. Instead, the Gulf city-state seemed to wash its hands of the financial woes that have rattled world markets.

The muddled message from Dubai has fueled worries over a possible default by the conglomerate, which is involved in projects around the world—from Gulf banks and ports in 50 countries to luxury retailer Barneys New York and a grandiose six-tower hotel-entertainment complex in Las Vegas.

Many investors are hoping that the conglomerate, Dubai World, will either openly discuss restructuring of some $60 billion in debt with its creditors, or that Dubai's larger, oil-rich neighbor, Abu Dhabi, will step in to restore confidence by promising to foot any bills.

Online retailers rev up deals to keep up momentum

NEW YORK (AP)—Retail Web sites kept amping up the deals Monday, the first day after Thanksgiving weekend's strong online sales, to try to maintain the momentum.

Meanwhile, a research firm that tracks business at stores reported tepid sales and customer traffic for Friday and Saturday that confirmed a so-so start to the season for the bricks-and-mortar world.

Though the Web is only about 10 percent of the holiday shopping pie, it's seen most of the growth so far this year—an encouraging sign after last year's first online sales decline.

Coremetrics, a Web analytics company in San Mateo, Calif., said that as of 1 p.m. Monday, sales for the day that the industry still pitches as "Cyber Monday" were up 19.6 percent over a year ago.

BUSINESS BRIEFS

Oil prices spike after Iran seizes yacht

Oil prices jumped Monday after Britian said a racing yacht was seized by Iran in the Persian Gulf and that five U.K. nationals were being held. Crude quickly climbed $1.23 and settled at $77.28 a barrel on the New York Mercantile Exchange. The yacht may have strayed inadvertently into Iranian waters when it was stopped last Wednesday, British officials said. It isn't the first time that Iran has taken custody of Britains at sea and energy prices rose on the specter of an extended standoff with one of the world's biggest producers of oil. ***(AP)***

Fed moves to drain some money out of economy

WASHINGTON (AP)—The Federal Reserve is fine-tuning a strategy to reel in some of the unprecedented amount of money that's been pumped into the economy during the financial crisis. The Federal Reserve Bank of New York said Monday that investors and others shouldn't conclude anything about when the central bank will reverse course and start boosting interest rates and removing other supports to fend off inflation. The upcoming operations will involve so-called reverse repurchase agreements. That's when the Fed sells securities from its portfolio, with an agreement to buy them back later.

Gov't increases pressure on mortgage industry

WASHINGTON (AP)—Faced with sluggish progress in its foreclosure-prevention effort, the Obama administration will spend the coming weeks cracking down on mortgage companies that aren't doing enough to help borrowers at risk of losing their homes. Treasury Department officials said Monday they will step up pressure on the 71 companies participating in the government's $75 billion effort to stem the foreclosure crisis. The will start this week by sending three person "SWAT teams" to monitor the eight largest companies' work and requesting twice-daily reports on their progress. The mortgage companies, also known as loan servicers, have had a hard time getting borrowers to complete the needed paperwork for the administration's loan modification program. Nearly 60 percent of the 375,000 borrowers who qualify to have their loan modifications completed by year-end have either submitted incomplete paperwork or none at all.

Microl Parts Department

will be closed for inventory Friday, December 4, and Saturday, December 5, 2009.

We will reopen for regular hours on Monday, December 7, 2009.

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SHIPPING SCHEDULE

MARIANA EXPRESS LINES PTE. LTD.

Outbound from Asia	Voyage No.	ETD Jakarta	ETD Bangkok	ETD P. Kelang	ETD Melbourne	ETD Singapore	ETD Hochiminh	ETD Busan	ETD Kobe	ETD Shanghai	ETD Auckland	ETD Manila	ETD Hongkong	ETD Kaoshiung	ETD Naha
MELL SEMBAWANG	022E	11/21 Sat	11/19 Thu	11/19 Thu	11/17 Tue	11/14 Sat	11/27 Fri	11/23 Mon	11/22 Sun	11/15 Sun	11/15 Sun	11/23 Mon	11/27 Fri	11/29 Sun	12/1 Tue
MELL SENOKO	031E	11/28 Sat	11/26 Thu	11/26 Thu	11/24 Tue	11/21 Sat	12/4 Fri	11/30 Mon	11/29 Sun	11/22 Sun	11/22 Sun	11/30 Mon	12/4 Fri	12/6 Sun	12/8 Tue
MELL SENTOSA	030E	12/5 Sat	12/3 Thu	12/3 Thu	12/1 Tue	11/28 Sat	12/11 Fri	12/7 Mon	12/6 Sun	11/29 Sun	11/29 Sun	12/7 Mon	12/11 Fri	12/13 Sun	12/15 Tue
MELL SEMBAWANG	023E	12/12 Sat	12/10 Thu	12/10 Thu	12/8 Tue	12/5 Sat	12/18 Fri	12/14 Mon	12/13 Sun	12/6 Sun	12/6 Sun	12/14 Mon	12/18 Fri	12/20 Sun	12/22 Tue
MELL SENOKO	032E	12/19 Sat	12/17 Thu	12/17 Thu	12/15 Tue	12/12 Sat	12/25 Fri	12/21 Mon	12/20 Sun	12/13 Sun	12/13 Sun	12/21 Mon	12/25 Fri	12/27 Sun	12/29 Tue
MELL SENTOSA	031E	12/26 Sat	12/24 Thu	12/24 Thu	12/22 Tue	12/19 Sat	1/1 Fri	12/28 Mon	12/27 Sun	12/20 Sun	12/20 Sun	12/28 Mon	1/1 Fri	1/3 Sun	1/5 Tue

Inbound from Asia	Voyage No.	ETA Guam	ETD Guam	ETA Saipan	ETA Yap	ETA Koror	ETA Davao	ETA GenSan	ETA Cebu	ETA Hongkong	ETA Kaoshiung	ETA Busan	ETA Yokohama	ETA Manila	ETA Singapore
MELL SEMBAWANG	022E	12/5 Sat	12/6 Sun	12/6 Sun	12/8 Tue	12/9 Wed	12/11 Fri	12/13 Sun	SKIP	12/18 Fri	12/19 Sat	12/24 Thu	1/12 Tue	12/27 Sun	12/23 Wed
MELL SENOKO	031E	12/12 Sat	12/13 Sun	12/13 Sun	SKIP	12/16 Wed	12/18 Fri	12/20 Sun	SKIP	12/25 Fri	12/26 Sat	12/31 Thu	1/19 Tue	1/3 Sun	12/30 Wed
MELL SENTOSA	030E	12/19 Sat	12/20 Sun	12/20 Sun	11/22 Sun	12/23 Wed	12/25 Fri	12/27 Sun	SKIP	1/1 Fri	1/2 Sat	1/7 Thu	1/26 Tue	1/10 Sun	1/6 Wed
MELL SEMBAWANG	023E	12/26 Sat	12/27 Sun	12/27 Sun	SKIP	12/30 Wed	1/1 Fri	1/3 Sun	SKIP	1/8 Fri	1/9 Sat	1/14 Thu	2/2 Tue	1/17 Sun	1/13 Wed
MELL SENOKO	032E	1/2 Sat	1/3 Sun	1/3 Sun	1/5 Mon	1/6 Wed	1/8 Fri	1/10 Sun	SKIP	1/15 Fri	1/16 Sat	1/21 Thu	2/9 Tue	1/24 Sun	1/20 Wed
MELL SENTOSA	031E	1/9 Sat	1/10 Sun	1/10 Sun	SKIP	1/13 Wed	1/15 Fri	1/17 Sun	SKIP	1/22 Fri	1/23 Sat	1/28 Thu	2/16 Tue	1/31 Sun	1/27 Wed

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ACROSS THE NATION

Man charged with capital murder in 3 Kan. deaths

LYNDON, Kan. (AP)—A former Missouri city official previously accused of assaulting his wife was charged Monday with capital murder in the shootings of her and their two teenage daughters in eastern Kansas. James Kraig Kahler, 46, also was charged with one count of attempted first-degree murder in the shooting of his estranged wife's 89-year-old grandmother and one count of aggravated burglary. Authorities suspect he broke into the grandmother's home near Topeka, where the shootings occurred. During Kahler's first appearance in Osage County District Court, Judge Phillip Fromme set bail at $10 million and scheduled another hearing for Dec. 10.

Cops: Woman makes threat to help boss make flight

MIAMI (AP)—A South Florida woman has been charged with calling in a bomb threat to keep her boss from missing a flight. An arrest report said a 31-year-old woman was charged Thursday with making a false report of planting a bomb. Miami International Airport officials received a call and an e-mail Wednesday claiming that a bomb was on an American Airlines plane. Police searched the specified aircraft but didn't find a bomb. Investigators tracked the e-mail to the woman's computer. During questioning, the woman reportedly told police that her boss had been booked on the flight to Honduras, but she had caused him to be late for the flight. She thought the bomb threat would give her boss time to make it. The woman was being held on $7,500 bail.

Gold coin dropped in Pa. Salvation Army kettle

YORK, Pa. (AP)—The Salvation Army says someone dropped a gold Krugerrand worth more than $1,000 in a collection kettle in south-central Pennsylvania. York Salvation Army Maj. Lurlene Mudge says the South African gold coin was wrapped in a $1 bill and later discovered while counting the collections. It was placed Friday in a kettle outside a Kmart store in Springettsbury Township, just outside York. Mudge says the coin is a morale booster for the people who ring bells by the collection kettles. She says it's been two years since the York Salvation Army got a gold coin as a donation.

Movement under way in California to ban divorce

SACRAMENTO, Calif. (AP)—Til death do us part? The vow would really hold true in California if a Sacramento Web designer gets his way.

In a movement that seems ripped from the pages of Comedy Channel writers, John Marcotte wants to put a measure on the ballot next year to ban divorce in California.

The effort is meant to be a satirical statement after California voters outlawed gay marriage in 2008, largely on the argument that a ban is needed to protect the sanctity of traditional marriage. If that's the case, then Marcotte reasons voters should have no problem banning divorce.

"Since California has decided to protect traditional marriage, I think it would be hypocritical of us not to sacrifice some of our own rights to protect traditional marriage even more," the 38-year-old married father of two said.

Marcotte said he has collected dozens of signatures, including one from his wife of seven years. The initiative's Facebook fans have swelled to more than 11,000. Volunteers that include gay activists and members of a local comedy troupe have signed on to help.

Marcotte is looking into whether he can gather signatures online, as proponents are doing for another proposed 2010 initiative to repeal the gay marriage ban. But the odds are stacked against a campaign funded primarily by the sale of $12 T-shirts featuring bride and groom stick figures chained at the wrists.

AP

This photo provided by the Pierce County Sheriff's Department shows Maurice Clemmons, a person of interest in the killing of four Lakewood Police officers in Parkland, Wash., Sunday, Nov. 29, 2009.

ON THE WEB:

2010 California Marriage Protection Act: http://www.rescuemarriage.org

Marcotte needs 694,354 valid signatures by March 22, a high hurdle in a state where the typical petition drive costs millions of dollars. Even if his proposed constitutional amendment made next year's ballot, it's not clear how voters would react.

Nationwide, about half of all marriages end in divorce.

Not surprisingly, Marcotte's campaign to make divorce in California illegal has divided those involved in last year's campaign for and against Proposition 8.

As much as everyone would like to see fewer divorces, making it illegal would be "impractical," said Ron Prentice, the executive director of the California Family Council who led a coalition of religious and conservative groups to qualify Proposition 8.

No other state bans divorce, and only a few countries, including the Philippines and Malta, do. The Roman Catholic Church also prohibits divorce but allows annulments. The California proposal would amend the state constitution to eliminate the ability of married couples to get divorced while allowing married couples to seek an annulment.

Prentice said proponents of traditional marriage only seek to strengthen the one man-one woman union.

"That's where our intention begins and ends," he said.

Jeffrey Taylor, a spokesman for Restore Equality 2010, a coalition of same-sex marriage activists seeking to repeal Proposition 8, said the coalition supports Marcotte's message but has no plans to join forces with him.

Divided Senate plunges into health care debate

WASHINGTON (AP)—Riven by partisanship, the Senate plunged into a widely anticipated debate Monday over sweeping health care legislation that President Barack Obama and congressional Democrats have vowed to approve and Republicans have sworn to block.

Debate is expected to last for weeks over the legislation, which includes a first-time requirement for most Americans to carry insurance and a mandate for insurers to cover any paying customer regardless of medical history or condition.

"We must avoid the temptation to drown in distractions and distortions," Senate Majority Leader Harry Reid said in the first moments of the first speech, a jab at Republicans that was reciprocated minutes later.

"Well, I don't know what's more preposterous: saying that this plan 'saves Medicare' or thinking that people will actually believe you," Sen. Mitch McConnell of Kentucky, said of Reid's oft-made statement.

At a cost of nearly $1 trillion, the legislation is designed to extend health care to millions of American who lack it, abolish insurance industry practices such as denying coverage based on pre-existing conditions and cut back on the rise of health care spending overall.

Despite its huge price tag, the Congressional Budget Office has estimated the 2,074-page bill would reduce federal deficits by $130 billion over the next decade. In all, CBO said 31 million uninsured individuals would receive insurance if the bill were enacted, many of them assisted by federal subsidies. As much as 94 percent of the eligible population would wind up covered. The legislation would be paid for through a combination of cuts in projected Medicare payments to hospitals and other providers, a payroll tax on the wealthy and taxes on drug makers, medical device manufacturers, owners of high-cost insurance and others.

It has taken months to advance the legislation to the floor, Democrats struggling with their own internal divisions as well as Republican opposition.

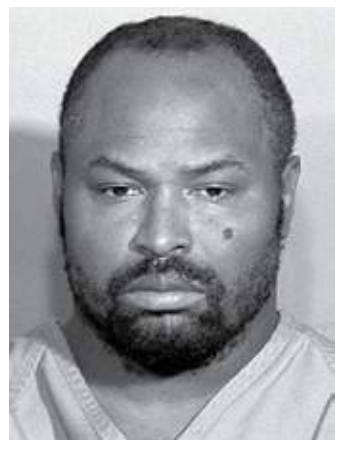
Democrats control 60 seats in the Senate, precisely the number needed to trump a promised Republican filibuster. While Reid spent most of the day jousting with Republicans, his ability to steer the bill to passage will depend on finding ways to finesse controversial provisions within the measure. None is more important than calls for the government to sell insurance in competition with private firms.

Suspect in officer killings eludes law in Seattle

SEATTLE (AP)—A heavily armed SWAT team stormed a Seattle home Monday where they thought they had cornered the suspect in the slaying of four police officers at a coffee shop, only to find out that he was not in the house and still on the loose.

The discovery added new urgency to the manhunt for Maurice Clemmons as police canvassed the neighborhood with search dogs and hundreds of officers were deployed around Seattle for any sign of the suspect. Authorities put up a $125,000 reward for information leading to his arrest.

Police had been positioned overnight at a Seattle home where they thought Clemmons was holed up and spent hours trying to communicate with him, using loudspeakers, explosions and even a robot sent into the house. But when the SWAT team went inside, he was nowhere to be found.



AP

This photo provided by the Pierce County Sheriff's Department shows Maurice Clemmons, a person of interest in the killing of four Lakewood Police officers in Parkland, Wash., Sunday, Nov. 29, 2009.

Pierce County sheriff's spokesman Ed Troyer said the location of Clemmons was not known, and it's possible he still could be in the neighborhood. Troyer also said people who know Clemmons told investigators he had been shot in the torso in his bloody struggle with the officers.

"If he didn't get a ride out of there, he could still be in the area," Troyer said.

Seattle police spokesman Jeff Kappel said there was evidence Clemmons at one point was on the property, but officers could not determine whether he was in the house itself. Kappel would not describe what the evidence was, but said it was a "good tip" that led them to the home.

Wash. shooting re-opens Huckabee's clemency record

LITTLE ROCK, Ark. (AP)—As governor of Arkansas, Mike Huckabee had a hand pardoning or commuting many more prisoners than his three immediate predecessors combined. Maurice Clemmons, the suspect in Sunday's slaying of four Seattle-area police officers, was among them.

For a politician considering another run for the White House, Clemmons could become Huckabee's Willie Horton.

"In a primary between a law-and-order Republican and him, I think it could definitely be a vulnerability," said Art English, a political scientist at the University of Arkansas at Little Rock. "It is very damaging when you have someone like that whose sentence was commuted. That's pretty high profile and very devastating and very tragic."

English said it's hard to avoid comparing the case to Horton, a convicted killer who raped a woman and assaulted her fiance while on release as part of a prison furlough program supported by Michael Dukakis when he was governor of Massachusetts.

Allies of former President George H.W. Bush ran ads criticizing Dukakis for his support of the program, undermining the Democrat's presidential campaign.

As recently as Sunday, hours before the shooting suspect was linked to him, Huckabee said he was leaning against running again for president, telling "Fox News Sunday" he was "less likely rather than more likely" to run.

World

Suspect in Philippine massacre charged with murder

MANILA, Philippines (AP)—Philippine prosecutors charged the heir of a powerful clan with murder Tuesday in the massacre of 57 people, more than half of them journalists or their staff who were accompanying the family and supporters of an election candidate.

At least 10 witnesses will testify they saw Andal Ampatuan Jr. leading the gunmen, including police officers, who blocked his rival's election caravan moments before the Nov. 23 massacre, prosecutor Al Calica told The Associated Press.

Hours later, troops found the bullet-riddled and hacked bodies near the highway sprawled in the grass and hastily buried in three mass graves by a backhoe together with three vehicles.

Ampatuan turned himself in last week and denied the charges.

He is the scion of a clan allied with President Gloria Macapagal Arroyo that has ruled southern impoverished Maguindanao province unopposed for years. His father, the family's patriarch, and six other family members also are considered suspects but have not been charged.

AP

Andal Ampatuan Jr., a town mayor suspected in Monday's massacre, of Unsay township, Maguindanao province in southern Philippines, holds his detainee number while being photographed inside his detention cell at the National Bureau of Investigation (NBI) in Manila Friday Nov. 27, 2009.

Prosecutors initially filed 25 murder charges against Ampatuan in southern Cotabato city, whose regional trial court is nearest to the massacre site in Ampatuan township.

The five prosecutors handling the murder case carried two boxloads of evidence and affidavits from witnesses from Manila to Cotabato city aboard two air force helicopters. They are expected to ask the court to try the case in Manila for security reasons.

"The evidence is strong," Calica said, adding that at least 10 witnesses provided written testimonies linking Ampatuan to the killings.

Iran nuke plans largely bluster, experts say

TEHRAN, Iran (AP)—Iran's announcement of plans to build 10 more uranium enrichment facilities is largely bluster after a strong rebuke from the U.N.'s nuclear agency, analysts said Monday. Nonetheless, the defiance is fueling calls among Western allies for new punitive sanctions to freeze Iran's nuclear program.

U.S. and European officials were swift to condemn the plans, warning that Iran risked sinking ever deeper into isolation. Iran responded that it felt forced to move forward with the plans after the International Atomic Energy Agency passed a resolution Friday demanding that it halt all enrichment activities.

Iran's bold announcement Sunday appears to be largely impossible to achieve as long as sanctions continue to throw up roadblocks and force Iran to turn to black markets and smuggling for nuclear equipment, said nuclear expert David Albright.

"They can't build those plants. There's no way," he said. "They have sanctions to overcome, they have technical problems. They have to buy things overseas ... and increasingly it's all illegal."

A more worrisome escalation in the standoff would be if Iran reduced its cooperation with the IAEA, as some Iranian officials have threatened to do if the West continues its pressure. The U.N. inspectors and monitoring are the world's only eyes on Tehran's program. The head of Iran's nuclear agency on Monday ruled out an even more drastic move, saying Tehran does not intend to withdraw from the Nuclear Non-Proliferation Treaty.

Enrichment is at the center of the standoff between Iran and the West because it can be used both to produce material needed for atomic weapons as well as fuel for nuclear power plants. Iran insists it only wants the latter.

Somali pirates hijack $20M of oil going to US

NAIROBI, Kenya (AP)—Crews on oil tankers aren't allowed to smoke above deck, much less carry guns, for fear of igniting the ship's payload. That's one of the main reasons Somali pirates met little resistance when they hijacked a U.S.-bound supertanker carrying $20 million in crude.

The Greek-flagged tanker—traveling from Saudi Arabia to New Orleans—had no escort when it was hijacked Sunday because naval warships are stretched too thin. The problem has been further exacerbated because pirates have expanded their operations to hundreds of miles out at sea.

The hijacking, one year after seizure of a Saudi supertanker led to heightened international efforts to fight piracy off the Horn of Africa, has highlighted the difficulty of keeping ships safe in the region—particularly oil tankers.

The Maran Centaurus was about 800 miles off the coast of Somalia when it was hijacked with 28 crew, said Cmdr. John Harbour, a spokesman for the EU Naval Force. On Monday, it was headed toward Somalia's lawless coast, a location where pirates most likely will hold the vessel as they attempt to negotiate a multi-million-dollar ransom.

While some ships traveling in the region have been outfitted with high pressure water guns and piercing noisemakers to repel pirates, even this is shunned on oil tankers for fear of triggering a response from pirates armed with guns and rocket-propelled grenades.

"If you're not allowed to smoke a cigarette on the upper deck of an oil tanker, why would you want someone with a weapon up there?" said Graeme Gibbon-Brooks, who heads the private security company Dryad Maritime Intelligence.

WORLD BRIEFS

2 Guantanamo detainees arrive in Italy

ROME (AP)—Two Tunisians who had been detained at Guantanamo arrived in Italy late Monday and will be tried on international terrorism charges for having allegedly recruited fighters for Afghanistan, officials said. Adel Ben Mabrouk, 39, and Mohamed Ben Riadh Nasri, 43, are suspected of being members of a terror group with ties to al-Qaida. They were immediately taken into custody upon arrival in Milan and were being interrogated, a prosecutor told The Associated Press. A third Guantanamo detainee was being relocated to France, and a fourth to Hungary, according to a U.S. official who spoke on condition of anonymity because the person was not authorized to discuss the release.

Iran holds 5 UK nationals after yacht intercepted

LONDON (AP)—Iran is holding five British sailors after stopping their racing yacht in the Persian Gulf, the British government said Monday. The move could heighten tensions between Iran and major world powers, including Britain, that are demanding a halt to its nuclear program. Oil prices spiked 2 percent to $77.45 a barrel on the New York Mercantile Exchange as the news broke before settling slightly at $77.28. The yacht owned by Sail Bahrain was stopped on its way from the tiny island country to the Gulf city of Dubai on Wednesday when it "may have strayed inadvertently into Iranian waters," Britain's Foreign Office said. Sail Bahrain's Web site identified the yacht as the "Kingdom of Bahrain" and said it had been due to join the 360-mile (580-kilometer) Dubai-Muscat Offshore Sailing Race, which was to begin Nov. 26.

Demjanjuk trial opens on Nazi death camp charges

MUNICH (AP)—John Demjanjuk sat in a wheelchair wrapped in a light blue blanket, his eyes closed and his face pale as his trial opened Monday on charges he helped kill 27,900 Jews as a Nazi death camp guard. Lawyers for the retired Ohio autoworker portrayed him as a victim—of the Nazis and misguided German justice. But three German doctors testified the Ukrainian-born Demjanjuk was fit to stand trial. Wearing a blue baseball cap, Demjanjuk, 89, was wheeled in to the packed Munich state court and did not answer when presiding judge Ralph Alt asked if he could answer basic questions about himself. His left hand twitched occasionally and his mouth was open slightly as though he was in pain.

COMMONWEALTH ELECTION COMMISSION
COMMONWEALTH OF THE NORTHERN MARIANA ISLANDS
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PUBLIC NOTICE

Pursuant to 1 CMC §9910 (a) and (b), the Commonwealth Election Commission, hereby give notice that the Commonwealth Election Commission will meet at 10:30 a.m. on Monday, December 7, 2009, at the Pedro P. Tenorio Multipurpose Center, Susupe, Saipan. Additional information concerning this meeting is available at the Office of the Election Commission, currently located at the Pedro P. Tenorio Multipurpose Center, Susupe, Saipan.

AGENDA

I. Preliminary Matters
a. Roll call
b. Adoption of agenda

II. Executive Director's Report

III. New Business

a. Election Procedures

IV. Miscellaneous

V. Adjournment

/s/ FRANCES M. SABLAN
Chairwoman

(The Commission, pursuant to 1 CMC §9912, may vote to meet in executive session to consult legal counsel and discuss personnel matters.)

Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands
Coastal Resources Management
Caller Box 10007, 2nd Floor, Morgen Building
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Website: www.crm.gov.mp

NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING

The Coastal Resources Management Office (CRMO) will hold a public hearing regarding Coastal Permit Application No. TMS-2009-X-080 for the construction and operation of a municipal solid waste landfill (MSWL) in Atgidon, Tinian. The proposed MSWL would include the installation of a new liner, leachate collection and treatment system, and environmental monitoring. The purpose of the new MSWL is to replace the existing non-regulatory compliant open-burning dump currently being used for all solid waste disposal on the island.

The public hearing will be held on Wednesday, December 16, 2009, 6:30 pm, at the Tinian Elementary School, in San Jose Village.

The public is invited to attend and make oral comments regarding this project. The project file is open for review comments during business hours from 7:30 A.M. – 4:30 P.M Monday - Friday. Written comments may be submitted to the CRM office located on the 2nd floor of the Morgen Building, Oleai, Saipan, or mailed to Coastal Resources Management Office, Caller Box 10007, Saipan or fax at 664-8315. All written and oral comments received will become part of the permit application record and will be considered in any decision made concerning the proposed project.

Please contact Coastal Resources Management at 664-8300/1 if you require further information regarding this project and/or public hearing.

/s/ JOHN B. JOYNER, Ph.D.
Director
Coastal Resources Management

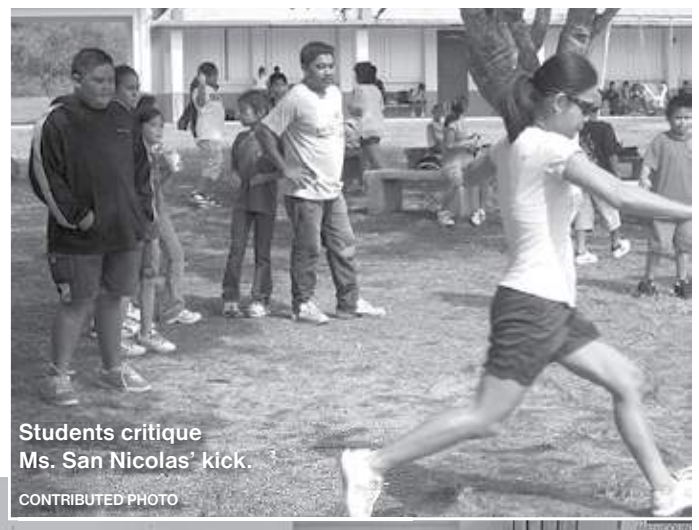
Campus Life

Tinian students show appreciation to teachers

Tinian Elementary School students recently held an appreciation ceremony for their teachers.

The Student Government led the ceremony. The students and parents sang *We Are the World,* presented their teachers with handmade cards, and challenged the staff to an exciting game of kickball.

Tinian Elementary School students also wrote poems regarding their appreciation of education and of their teachers. ***(See sidebar)***



Students critique Ms. San Nicolas' kick.

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Ms. Egger gathers cards from her 1st grade students.

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

The Student Government officers help lead the ceremony.

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

The bases were loaded, and the staff didn't stand a chance!

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Getting into the song.

MESSAGE OF APPRECIATION

We the family of late

†Leopoldo L. Naraja

wish to extend our most sincere gratitude and heartfelt appreciation to all our families, relatives, and friends both near and far for your kindness and support during our time of sorrow.

We would like to acknowledge the many thoughtful prayers of comfort, compassion, personal words of kindness and the invaluable time you shared with us. Your presence had been most especially comforting. You have all been so wonderful which helped us ease the pain of the loss of a very important person in our lives.

Although we are saddened and feel empty because our beloved will no longer be among us – we are happy because we know he is in peace with his creator.

Thank you – Un Sen Dangkalo Na Si Yu'us Ma'ase!

Thomasa Camacho Naraja
Children and Family

Poem For Education

Students are learning a lot
First graders are learning how
to write a plot
I am happy at school
The staff will make a new rule
I am learning about states.
Our school has a lot of gates
My uniform will not fade
I will give you an apple
It will be on your table.
"Bye-bye," I will see you tomorrow
Don't worry, I have nothing
to borrow!

–By Craig (Grade 3)

Teacher

You are a good teacher
And you're a good worker

You make us go to the cafeteria to
eat good food
And you are good too.

You are goodable and
You are loveable

–Florencia (Grade 2)

Education

Education is the bomb.
That's how we get our job.
And once we grow older,
Our jobs can even be across the border.

School is where education is at,
But you can't wear a hat.
Then you go to middle school,
And that's where it starts to get cool.

Education is fun,
but don't use a gun.
It can make you smart.
Even when you do art.

–Ana (Grade 6)

The Impact of Education

Education is a process to learn,
To get educated and have a
good future
It is a title to earn:
By math, English, science,
and literature.

We learn by going to school
Our teachers teach us with books
I think learning is cool,
And my classmate teach me
different stuff, too
Even to cook!

Learning opens a gate and doors
And brings so many jobs:
Scientist, doctors, nurses, or
clerks at stores
They all went to school, and
still learn growing up.

–Rudolfo (Grade 6)

The Best Gift

Education is the best gift
That our parents can give
No one can take it away
No one can steal it.

Education from teachers
Is the best we ever have.
They teach us, they guide us,
And believe in us.

Education is important
For everyone
We read, listen, and
Learn, everything we can.

–Elton (Grade 5)

Life & Style

Clinton daughter, Chelsea, engaged to be married

NEW YORK (AP)—Turns out those discredited rumors of a possible Chelsea Clinton wedding last summer were mostly just premature: The 29-year old daughter of former President Bill Clinton and Secretary of State Hillary Rodham Clinton has become engaged to her longtime boyfriend, 31-year old investment banker Marc Mezvinsky.

The couple sent an e-mail to friends Friday announcing the news, saying they were looking at a possible wedding next summer. Matt McKenna, a spokesman for the former president, confirmed the engagement Monday.

Mezvinsky is a son of former Pennsylvania Rep. Marjorie Margolies-Mezvinsky and former Iowa Rep. Ed Mezvinsky, longtime friends of the Clintons. Ed Mezvinsky was released from federal prison last year after serving a nearly five-year sentence for wire and bank fraud.

Margolies-Mezvinsky served just one term in Congress before losing her seat in 1994 after voting in favor of President Clinton's 1993 budget, which was controversial at the time.

At the State Department Monday, Hillary Clinton had one brief encounter with reporters but took no questions. Later, her spokesman, Ian C. Kelly, was asked about the reported engagement but said it would be inappropriate for him to comment.

"I have a daughter who's around, she's 22 years old. And the last thing I would want would be for the State Department spokesman to talk about the personal plans of my daughter, so I am going to decline any comment on that," Kelly said.

AP

In this Dec. 1996 file photo, Chelsea Clinton, right, sits with Marc Mezvinsky on the beach at Hilton Head Island, S.C.

The former first daughter and her fiance became friends as teenagers in Washington and both attended Stanford University. They now live in New York, where Mezvinsky works at G3 Capital, a Manhattan hedge fund, and Clinton is pursuing a graduate degree at Columbia University's School of Public Health.

Before returning to graduate school, Clinton worked at Avenue Capital, a hedge fund run by prominent Democratic donor Marc Lasry. She also worked at McKinsey and Company, a management consulting firm.

Since her debut on the public stage as a curly haired 12-year-old during her father's 1992 presidential campaign, Clinton has maintained a fairly low public profile. That changed in 2008, when the press-shy Clinton stepped out on the campaign trail to help her mother's bid for the Democratic presidential nomination.

Before beginning a relationship with Mezvinsky, Clinton dated Ian Klaus, a Rhodes Scholar she met while studying international relations at Oxford in 2002. Klaus dedicated his first book, "Elvis is Titanic," about his experience teaching in the Kurdistan province of Iraq, to Clinton.

Earlier this year, Hillary Clinton was forced to tamp down speculation that her daughter and Mezvinsky were already engaged and would marry in August on Martha's Vineyard. President Barack Obama, who was vacationing on the island at the time, was rumored to be on the guest list.

Aides to Hillary Clinton, citing Chelsea's privacy, declined to disclose whether she has received an engagement ring or any other details about wedding plans. It will be an interfaith marriage; Mezvinsky is Jewish, while Clinton grew up attending Methodist Church with her mother. Bill Clinton is Southern Baptist.

Word of the engagement was first reported by ABC News.

Final Nabokov novel published

ST. PETERSBURG, Russia (AP)—Vladimir Nabokov's final, fragmentary novel went on sale Monday in two versions in Russia, more than 30 years after he asked that it be burned upon his death.

The emigre Russian wrote "The Original of Laura" on index cards in 1975-77, the last years of his life.

He asked his wife and son to burn the cards after his death, said Tatiana Ponomaryova, director of the Nabokov museum in St. Petersburg, where the versions were presented Monday.

One contains reproductions of the English-language index cards. The other, in Russian, puts the words into conventional text form.

His son Dmitry, who decided to publish the work, wrote in the preface that his father wouldn't have been against the move.

The fragmentary book may be frustrating to many readers accustomed to the polished writing of Nabokov, whose novels including "Lolita" and "Pale Fire" are regarded as some of the best English prose ever written. But scholars at the presentation found it intriguing.

"Now we have a unique opportunity to play Nabokov as Rubik's cube. That is we can try to decide ourselves how the plot should go," said Valery Timofeyev a Nabokov expert at St. Petersburg State University. "In fact, we now have a sample of the author's laboratory, where all the stages of the writer's work can be seen. It is great material for teaching philology students, too."

"Today, when every word of Nabokov is worth its weight in gold, this book is like finding a treasure," Russian writer Sergei Kibalnik said.

The book was published in the West in early November and reviewers took note of its postmodernist conceits, in which the narrator tells of an affair with a young woman that later became the basis for a best-seller purportedly written by him.

"It's not a novel. It's a plot of a plot. But it is very interesting from that point of view," said Boris Averin, a Russian literature historian at St. Petersburg State University.

The decision by Dmitry Nabokov to publish the book against his father's wishes was controversial in literary circles.

"However, it's understandable that it was very hard for Dmitry to burn something written by the hand of his father. And I'm personally very glad that Nabokov's son still decided to publish his father's work. He did it now also because of his elderly age of 75," Ponomaryova said.

Mexican Pacheco wins Cervantes literary award

MADRID (AP)—The Mexican writer Jose Emilio Pacheco has won the Cervantes Prize, the Spanish-speaking world's highest literary honor, Spain's Culture Ministry said Monday.

The 70-year-old poet, novelist, journalist, essayist and literary critic said he was overwhelmed by the award.

"It's like being hit by a punch that doesn't hurt you immediately, it's absolutely unreal," Pacheco said from the international book fair in Guadalajara, Mexico. "There hasn't been a minute since seven this morning when I haven't answered three phones at once," said Pacheco.

Jose Antonio Pascual Rodriguez, a member of the Cervantes Prize jury and representative of the Spanish Royal Academy, said of Pacheco: "We've defined him as representing the whole of our language. He's an exceptional poet of daily life, with a depth, a freedom of thought, an ability to create his own world, an ironic distance from reality when it's necessary, and a linguistic use ... that is impeccable."

Pacheco, a Mexico City native, is widely regarded as one of his country's foremost poets and short narrative writers, and a leading representative of the generation that came of age in the late 1950s and 1960s.

He is best known for his bittersweet accounts of adolescents growing up in a less crowded—but corrupt and unjust—Mexico of the 1940s and '50s.

Pacheco

Pascual Rodriguez praised in particular Pacheco's 1981 novel "Las Batallas en el Desierto," or "Battles in the Desert," a story of boy's infatuation with the mother of one of his classmates.

"Blending simple and direct prose with a complex narrative structure that shifts from past to present, Pacheco evokes ... Mexico City, with its beggars, pollution, and constricted lives of its lower middle class," according to the U.S. book store chain Barnes and Noble. The book was translated and published in English in 1987.

Pascual Rodriguez called it "a magnificent story that deals with childhood, adolescence and youth."

A biography of Pacheco on the Web site of Mexico's National Institute of Fine Arts hails him as "an essential figure in the Mexican poetry, narrative and literary journalism of this century."

It adds: "While his intellectual rigor, attitude toward literature, love for the city and his characters are features that are present in each of the genres he takes on, each is admirably distinct."

Pacheco has also translated works by Samuel Beckett, Tennessee Williams and T.S. Eliot, and taught literature at universities in the United States, Britain and Canada, besides his work in Mexico.

The Cervantes award was created by Spain in 1975 and carries a euro125,000 ($160,000) cash stipend. It is likened to a Nobel for literature in Spanish and honors a writer's body of work.

In Celebration of his New Life

Felipe Pangelinan Reyes

January 12, 1950 – November 26, 2009

He will now be joining his:

Sisters: Angelina P. Cruz
Concepcion T. Hocog
Brother: Pedro P. Reyes
Brothers-In-Law: Ignacio Cruz
Antonio Hocog
Sisters-In-Law: Maria A. Pangelinan
Lerna S. Reyes

He will forever be missed by:

Mother: Juana Pangelinan Reyes
Father: Joaquin San Nicolas Reyes
Wife: Lani Prado Reyes
Children: Felipe Reyes Jr. / Jack Dan DLR. Kaainoa / Antonio A. Reyes / Jhoannifel P. Reyes / Roque Jann P. Reyes
Brothers / Sister & In-laws:
Jose T. / Limei Pangelinan & Children
Moses T. / Kathy K. Pangelinan & Children
Maria R. / Juan Kaainoa & Children
Antonio / Connie & Children
Juan P. / Ellaine Reyes & Children
Angie A. Reyes & Children

And he will also be missed by his numerous, aunts, uncles, cousins, nephews, nieces, relatives and friends.

Mass and the Holy Rosary are being offered daily at 6:00 pm at Tanapag Church.

Your Prayers are Greatly Appreciated .

Thank You!

Lani, Felipe Reyes Jr., Jack Dan DLR. Kaainoa, Antonio A. Reyes, Jhoannifel P. Reyes and Roque Jann P. Reyes & Family

This photo taken Nov. 5, 2009 shows the ten finalists competing to be the next Victoria's Secret Runway Angel. Top row, left to right are: Kylie Bisutti, 19, Simi Valley, Ca.; Krystina Holbrook, 20, El Dorado Hills, Ca.; Catharina Lee, 20, Washington, D.C.; Alicia Hall, 24, Las Vegas; Raven Ervin, 24, Birmingham, Al.; Courtney O'Conner, 20, Raleigh, N.C. Front row, left to right are: Allison Turner, 23, Cape Girardeau, Mo.; Katelyn Fortes, 18, Boston; Jamie Lee Darley, 23, Carmel, Ca.; Tika Iveaj, 25, Detroit.

AP

Models compete for Victoria's Secret runway spot

NEW YORK (AP)—It's a choice most of us don't have to make: lingerie or loyalty?

But for 10 young women vying for a spot on the Victoria's Secret runway, balancing tiny outfits and high heels wasn't the biggest juggling act in the online contest that will land just one of them in the CBS broadcast Tuesday night. Instead, they say, the challenge was supporting newfound friends while maintaining their competitive edge.

At each elimination round since the contestants landed in New York from points north, south and west, there have been hugs, tears and kind words for those sent packing.

Still, Californians Jamie Lee Darley, 23, of Carmel, and Kylie Bisutti, 19, of Simi Valley, couldn't keep their megawatt smiles down when their faces and feminine figures were beamed onto a Times Square screen as the two got their turn on the catwalk when the runway show was taped Nov. 19.

Only a single fresh face will be on TV with the lingerie retailer's established stable of models, dubbed "angels," such as Heidi Klum, Marisa Miller and Doutzen Kroes. The winner is being chosen by online votes.

If her mother-in-law hadn't encouraged her to enter the model casting call, Bisutti says she'd be busy at home trying to settle in with her husband—she's just a newlywed. "He's so happy for me," she gushes.

Darley is a waitress with some building construction business. For this avid swimmer, participating in the contest has been a bit of a revenge for the kids who teased her for being gangly growing up. "I used to tell them I was going to be a supermodel as my comeback."

The contestants who moved in and out of the luxury apartment in Manhattan's financial district—which had what appeared to be an unused kitchen—had a whirlwind experience that included a body analysis and breakneck workout by celebrity trainer David Kirsch, and a middle-of-the-night lingerie photo shoot in Grand Central Station.

Getting them through, they say, were the jokes made by 24-year-old Raven Ervin of Birmingham, Ala., and kind words from Tika Ivezaj, 25, of Detroit. Allison Turner, 23, of Cape Girardeau, Mo., says she watched all the other women in the bathroom as they applied makeup—and now she, too, can do a smoky eye.

But the models were also always looking over their shoulder.

It wasn't lost on Turner, a pro rodeo rider, that when she made the first big cut, she was surrounded by the other women she thought had done well, even if she was sad for those on the other side. "I would definitely think people would call me competitive. I barrel race back home and that's a competitive sport. ... I think what got me here is my `Yee-ha.'"

As the two longest-lasting contestants, Darley says she and Bisutti were among the closest friends. They cheered for each other when each one had a stint on the catwalk during the taping of the show earlier this month, but now that it's settling in that only one will appear on TV in black-lace panties, a black top with embroidered rhinestones and a miniature fur cape, it's getting "a little tooth and nail," she says. "It's a little awkward."

"Jamie and I became pretty good friends as we lived together," agrees Bisutti in a separate interview. "We are also competitors though, so it was a funny combination because we were friends but we always had to compete with each other in tasks. We had a lot of fun shopping and going to the gym together. We made food together and we got along really well."

And Bisutti says she was proud of Darley when she saw her on the catwalk, but she thinks it's her own adrenaline, excitement, model walk and figure that will put her in the final show.

"When I am out on the runway I feel so confident and sexy but also like I am someone who women can relate to," she says.

Darley isn't ceding the spotlight to her pal so easily.

"It was kind of like every dream in my life coming true ... to be a Victoria's Secret model. It was a good goal to have but you never think you are going to get it," she says. "It's like a little boy wanted to play for the World Cup in soccer. But I think I did enough to win."

Taped beating outside NJ club probed by police

ATLANTIC CITY, N.J. (AP)—Police plan to file charges against several bouncers who were videotaped beating two men outside a nightclub co-owned by hip-hop star Jay Z.

A video was shot by a disc jockey who had just finished performing early Saturday inside the 40/40 Club and shows about nine security guards kicking and punching two men in a parking lot.

"Stop! Stop! Stop!" one of them yells. "I didn't do nothing!"

The video shows one of the two men being kicked while he was lying on the ground, and also shows as many as six bouncers swarming and punching the other man, Tyrell Durant, 26, of Neptune.

"We came down to Atlantic City to have a good time, not to have the crap beat out of us," Durant told The Associated Press on Monday. "We did not do anything to deserve this."

Durant and his friend, Leonard Clark, have been charged with disorderly conduct.

Durant said he and Clark, 25, also of Neptune, were at 40/40 to celebrate Clark's birthday. Clark was at the bar, having just ordered a $15 plate of chicken, when a bouncer who had just ejected someone else from the club told him to move, Durant said.

Clark protested, saying he was waiting for his food, and a bouncer began escorting him from the club, Durant said.

Durant said he followed Clark, asking why he was being ejected. He said security grabbed him and led the two of them down a steep staircase where Durant felt like he was about to fall and grabbed the closest person to him to keep his balance.

The club manager told police someone ripped his collar during the altercation inside the club, and police said Durant punched a security guard in the face.

The video was shot and posted to YouTube by a Staten Island, N.Y., disc jockey who calls himself DJ Zeke. It starts when security and the two patrons are outside the club in a parking lot.

Durant denied he or Clark did anything wrong, but both were charged with disorderly conduct and released pending a Dec. 11 court date. An ambulance was called for Durant, who said he was sprayed in the face by a fire extinguisher. He was treated at the scene.

Durant also said bouncers stole his watch and some cash from him.

A woman who answered the phone at the club Monday referred inquiries to a publicist who did not immediately return a message seeking comment. Jay Z was not present when the encounter took place, police said.

Detective Thomas Holton said police are reviewing the video to try to identify the bouncers who would face charges stemming from the assaults on Durant and Clark.

DJ Zeke, who declined to give his real name, said he did not see either of the men inside the club. He said he was walking behind the club when he saw what was happening and began filming.

"I was disgusted by it," he told the AP. "As a DJ, you see fights all the time. But to see bouncers lose it like this—they just lost it."

NBC: WH dinner couple to appear on 'Today'

NEW YORK (AP)—NBC says the couple that crashed a White House state dinner will appear on the "Today" show.

The network says Michaele and Tareq Salahi will be interviewed Tuesday by "Today" host Matt Lauer. The interview is scheduled to air in the 7 a.m. half-hour segment.

An appearance scheduled for Monday night on CNN's "Larry King Live" had been canceled several days ago.

Earlier Monday, the publicist for the couple had denied they are "shopping" any interviews or demanding money from television networks to tell their story.

A TV executive who spoke on condition of anonymity to publicly discuss bookings had told The Associated Press that the couple's representatives had urged networks to "get their bids in" for an interview.

In an e-mailed statement, publicist Mahogany Jones called the allegations false and demanded that "this adverse, inaccurate information cease immediately."

NBC News spokeswoman Megan Kopf said the network was not paying for the "Today" appearance.

"NBC News does not and will not pay for interviews, and this is no exception," Kopf said Monday night.

US author Littell wins Bad Sex in fiction prize

LONDON (AP)—A cringe-inducing passage in best-selling novel "The Kindly Ones" that compares a sexual encounter to a battle with an one-eyed Greek mythological monster has won Britain's Bad Sex in Fiction Prize.

The editors of the Literary Review magazine said Monday that American author Jonathan Littell won the award for describing sex as "a jolt that emptied my head like a spoon scraping the inside of a soft-boiled egg."

Littell beat other shortlisted authors including Paul Theroux and John Banville, which celebrates crude or ridiculous depiction's of sex in modern literature.

"The Kindly Ones" is a 900-page epic narrated by a fictional German officer. The international best-seller won France's top literary honor, the Goncourt Prize, in 2006.

Polanski stuck in jail; must pay full $4.5M

GSTAAD, Switzerland (AP)—Roman Polanski remained in jail Monday, despite visits from his lawyer and a French diplomat, and it was unclear if the director had met Switzerland's demand of a full bail payment of $4.5 million to be released.

The Swiss Justice Ministry declined to say what guarantees Polanski needed to give to be transferred from the jail near Zurich to house arrest at his chalet in the luxury resort of Gstaad.

In addition to bail, the 76-year-old filmmaker must surrender his identity papers and be fitted with an electronic monitoring bracelet. He would not be allowed to leave his property as he awaits a decision on whether he will be extradited to the U.S. for having sex in 1977 with a 13-year-old girl.

"The bail must be wired to a bank account, and the bank must then notify us that it has received the bail," ministry spokesman Folco Galli said. "Nothing happens before that."

The full bail payment is standard practice in Switzerland, Galli said.

That is different from other countries such as the United States, where bail bondsmen often post a percentage of the total payment required by a court.

AP

A snow-plough passes the chalet of Polish-French filmmaker Roman Polanski named "Milky Way", covered in freshly fallen snow in Gstaad, Switzerland, Monday, Nov. 30 2009.

Polanski has been in Swiss custody since being arrested Sept. 26 on a U.S. warrant as he arrived in Zurich to receive a lifetime achievement award at a film festival. Authorities in Los Angeles want him returned to be sentenced after 31 years as a fugitive.

The director of such film classics as "Rosemary's Baby," ''Chinatown" and "The Pianist" was being held at a jail in Winterthur, near Zurich, where he was visited Monday by his lawyer Lorenz Erni and French diplomat Jean-Luc Faure-Tournaire.

"He is in good spirits. He is very happy about how he has been treated here," Faure-Tournaire said. He expected Polanski to leave jail soon, but he could not say how quickly.

Actor-comedian Tom Arnold weds for 4th time

LOS ANGELES (AP)'Tom Arnold is married again.

Arnold's spokeswoman, Staci Wolfe, said the "True Lies" and "Happy Endings" actor-comedian wed Ashley Groussman on Saturday in Maui.

It is Arnold's fourth marriage. He was first married to actress-comedian Roseanne Barr from 1990 to 1994. He was married to second wife Julie Lynne Champnella from 1995 to 1999 and third wife Shelby Roos from 2002 to 2008.

Arnold currently hosts the weekly "Laughing With The Stars" comedy show at The Laugh Factory in Los Angeles.

Hasselhoff ex-wife arrested in LA on DUI charge

LOS ANGELES (AP)—David Hasselhoff's ex-wife has been arrested on suspicion of drunken driving in Los Angeles.

The California Highway Patrol said Sunday that Pamela Bach was pulled over Saturday night just south of U.S. 101 on Laurel Canyon Boulevard. She was booked at the LAPD's Van Nuys jail and released.

The patrol says Bach showed blood alcohol levels of .14 and .13 on a breathalyzer test. California's legal limit is .08.

Bach was charged with misdemeanor hit-and-run in 2007, but the charges were dropped when she agreed to pay minor damages to the woman whose car she hit. She pleaded no contest to a drunken driving charge in August and was placed on three years of informal probation, court records show.

She was also ordered to go to a treatment program and not drive with any measurable amount of alcohol in her blood.

A phone message left for Bach's attorney, Ronald D. Hedding, was not immediately returned Monday. She is scheduled to appear in court on Dec. 24.

Bach was married to Hasselhoff for 16 years until he filed for divorce in 2006. She appeared as a cafe owner in several episodes of Hasselhoff's series, "Baywatch."

SHOWBIZ TIDBITS

Kelsey Grammer is set for Broadway's 'La Cage'

NEW YORK (AP) — From television's favorite psychiatrist to the owner of a French Riviera nightclub: Kelsey Grammer is set to star on Broadway in "La Cage aux Folles" next spring. Producer Sonia Friedman says a revival of the 1983 Jerry Herman-Harvey Fierstein musical will open April 18 at the Longacre Theatre. It's based on the current hit London production and will feature that show's British star, Douglas Hodge. The director is Terry Johnson. "La Cage" concerns the relationship between the club owner, portrayed by Grammer, and its drag star, the role played by Hodge. Grammer, 54, played Dr. Frasier Crane on the comedy TV series "Frasier" for 11 seasons.

Jackson's 'This Is It' out on DVD in January

NEW YORK (AP)—"Michael Jackson's This Is It," a film about the King of Pop's final rehearsals before his death, will be released on DVD on Jan. 26, 2010. The DVD release was announced Monday by Sony Pictures Home Entertainment. "This Is It" captures Jackson's final performances as he rehearsed for his concerts in London. He died June 25, just weeks before his marathon of 50 concerts was to begin. The DVD includes two documentaries, "Staging the Return: Beyond the Show" and "Staging the Return: The Adventure Begins," which highlight Jackson as he prepared for the concerts. The film has grossed more than $70 million in the United States.

Publicist says dinner couple not 'shopping' story

WASHINGTON (AP)—A publicist for the couple that crashed a White House state dinner denies they are "shopping" any interviews or demanding money from television networks to tell their story. In an e-mailed statement Monday, publicist Mahogany Jones said the allegations are false and demanded that "this adverse, inaccurate information cease immediately." Jones said Michaele and Tareq Salahi are not making any formal comments or arrangements to speak with the media. An appearance previously scheduled for Monday night on CNN's "Larry King Live" has been canceled. A TV executive who spoke on condition of anonymity to publicly discuss bookings had told The Associated Press that the couple's representatives had urged networks to "get their bids in" for an interview.

Several Broadway musicals break box-office records

NEW YORK (AP)—The Monday after a big holiday week on Broadway usually brings news of broken box-office records. Thanksgiving week proved no exception, with several eye-popping grosses, particularly for "Wicked" at the Gershwin Theatre. Its producers say the musical prequel to "The Wizard of Oz" took in more than $2 million last week. Other shows shattering house records were "The Lion King," with $1.69 million at the Minskoff Theatre, and "Billy Elliot," hauling in $1.57 million at the Imperial. Prices, of course, have risen a bit since last year, and many shows raise them during specific holiday periods. Stay tuned. More records will be broken during the lucrative Christmas-New Year's holidays.

Walken comes to B'way in new Martin McDonagh play

NEW YORK (AP)—How's this for an intriguing role? Christopher Walken will play a man searching for his missing hand in "A Behanding in Spokane," Martin McDonagh's black comedy opening March 4 on Broadway. Producer Robert Fox says Walken will be joined by Anthony Mackie, Sam Rockwell and Zoe Kazan in the play, which begins previews Feb. 15 at the Gerald Schoenfeld Theatre. John Crowley directs. Walken won an Oscar for his role in "The Deer Hunter." The 66-year-old actor has also appeared in the films "Annie Hall," "Pennies From Heaven," "Wedding Crashers" and the musical version of "Hairspray." McDonagh is the author of the Tony-nominated plays "The Beauty Queen of Leenane," "The Lonesome West" and "The Pillowman."

Woman fears she may love newfound family too much

By ABIGAIL VAN BUREN
UNIVERSAL PRESS SYNDICATE

Dear Abby

DEAR ABBY: I am a 30-year-old woman who has recently discovered my biological family. I have a wonderful half-brother and several other amazing people I can now call family.

The issue I'm struggling with is my profound attraction to my half-brother. I know it's morally wrong, and I may be confusing the newfound relationship with him. Your perspective would be very much appreciated.

CONFLICTED IN SOUTHERN CALIFORNIA

DEAR CONFLICTED: Physical attraction is a reflex—and not something we can control. Our BEHAVIOR, on the other hand, is something we CAN control.

This is a case of wrong time, wrong place. If you had been a member of the royal family in Egypt 3,000 years ago, you could have married your half-brother and continued the dynasty. But this is 2009 and the USA, so you're just going to have to satisfy your physical attraction with someone less incestuous.

■ ■ ■

DEAR ABBY: Is it rude to label one's leftover food when staying with relatives? My husband, daughter and I visit his family often. When we go out to eat and bring leftovers back to the house, we usually label them if we want to eat them later.

It has never seemed out of the ordinary to me. I was raised that way. My mother always said that if I didn't want something eaten by one of my siblings, then I should label it.

Recently, my husband's sister (who is 16) asked if she could eat the rest of some pizza we had bought the night before. I politely responded that I planned to have it for lunch. She remarked that she thinks it is funny that we are so protective of our food. It got me to thinking—is our behavior odd?

TAKEN ABACK IN WASHINGTON

DEAR TAKEN ABACK: Considering that you come from a family in which anything in the fridge was considered fair game among your siblings, it's not odd at all. And when your sister-in-law said what she did, you should have explained that to her. Had you done so, she wouldn't have questioned it.

■ ■ ■

DEAR ABBY: My 20-year-old daughter, "Marissa," is self-centered, lies compulsively and does not consider the consequences of her actions. She has been diagnosed with narcissistic personality disorder. We have just learned that she is now pregnant, and her father and I are not happy about it.

We will eventually be meeting the parents of the child's father. Is it our responsibility to discuss Marissa's problems with them? Or should we keep our mouths shut and pretend we are happy?

TRYING TO DECIDE IN WISCONSIN

DEAR TRYING TO DECIDE: Does the young man know about your daughter's diagnosis and what it means? If not, then HE should be told and the implications explained to him.

Because your daughter's personality disorder will affect their son and the grandchild, his parents should also be informed. Ideally, he is the person who should do it. But if he doesn't, lay all the cards on the table because the other grandparents should be prepared.

And no, you do not have to "pretend" to be happy about the situation. And neither do they.

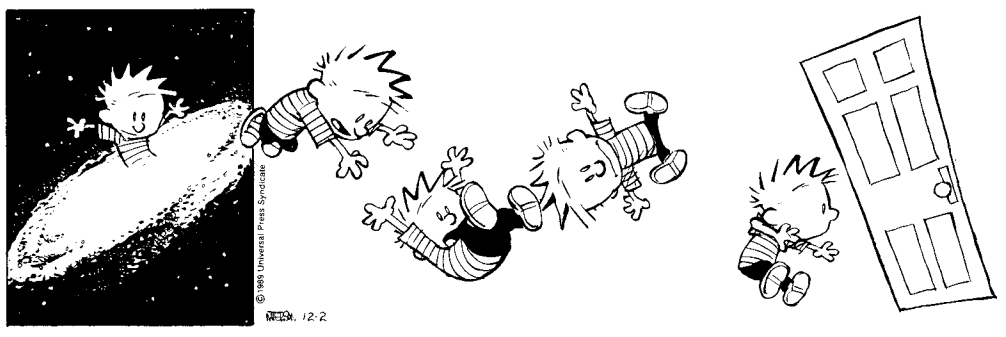
Dear Abby is written by Abigail Van Buren, also known as Jeanne Phillips, and was founded by her mother, Pauline Phillips. Write Dear Abby at www.DearAbby.com or P.O. Box 69440, Los Angeles, CA 90069.

Good advice for everyone – teens to seniors – is in "The Anger in All of Us and How to Deal With It." To order, send a business-size, self-addressed envelope, plus check or money order for $6 (U.S. funds only) to: Dear Abby – Anger Booklet, P.O. Box 447, Mount Morris, IL 61054-0447. (Postage is included in the price.)

Pastimes

Calvin and Hobbes

By Bill Waterson

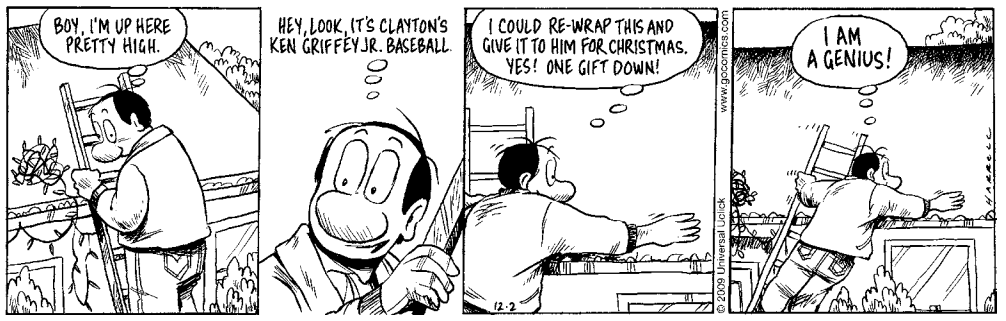


Garfield®

By Jim Davis

Adam@home

By Bryan Basset


BOY, I'M UP HERE PRETTY HIGH.
HEY, LOOK, IT'S CLAYTON'S KEN GRIFFEY JR. BASEBALL.
I COULD RE-WRAP THIS AND GIVE IT TO HIM FOR CHRISTMAS. YES! ONE GIFT DOWN!
I AM A GENIUS!
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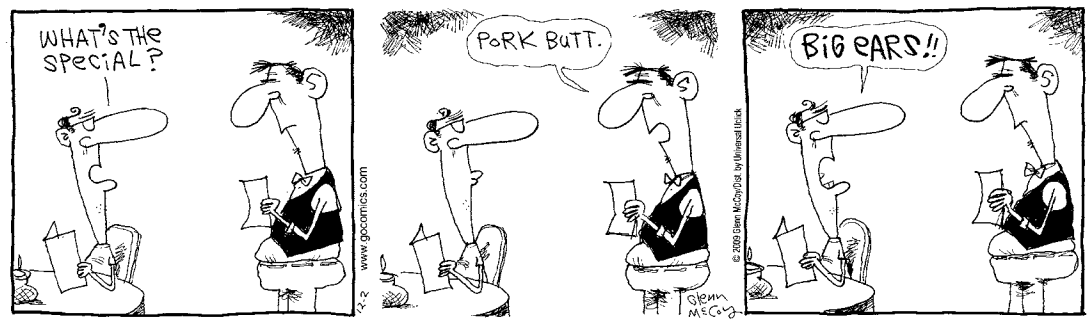
The Duplex

By Glenn McCoy



CROSSWORD

By Eugene Sheffer

ACROSS
1 Tater
5 Spade or heart
8 Name for a Dalmatian
12 Top-notch
13 — carte
14 Poi source
15 Stove type
17 From the start
18 Young hog
19 Don quickly
21 Sodium chloride
24 Violinist Kavafian
25 "Clue" weapon
28 Rams fans?
30 Sajak or Summerall
33 Commotion
34 "Stop, sailor!"
35 Listener
36 Banned bug spray
37 1492 ship
38 Wan
39 Carnival city
41 Swallow hard
43 Rose-bush protectors
46 Ruin
50 Drench
51 Deep-dish apple dessert
54 Church section
55 Past
56 Crystal gazer
57 Emeritus (Abbr.)
58 Scarlet
59 Brutus' being

DOWN
1 Enervates
2 Milne bruin
3 "Do — others ..."
4 Cheapen
5 Chum
6 Under the weather
7 Picks up the check
8 Wood finish
9 Instruments
10 Sandwich cookie
11 Burg
16 H, to Hellenes
20 Final
22 Strauss of jeans fame
23 Nasality
25 "Awesome, dude!"
26 Peculiar
27 Braised beef
29 Birthright barterer
31 "That feels so good!"
32 Attempt
34 In due time
38 Place near
40 Seeing 58-Across
42 1960s hallucinogen
43 Despot
44 Crosby co-star, often
45 Practice pugilism
47 Has bills
48 Mid-month day
49 Muse's harp
52 Time of your life?
53 Affirmative action

Solution time: 21 mins.

D	I	S	C	■	A	R	M	■	A	L	M	A
I	D	E	A	■	M	O	A	■	S	O	A	P
D	O	W	N	T	O	W	N	■	H	O	M	E
■	■	■	O	A	K	■	D	O	R	M	E	R
A	D	O	P	T	■	C	O	L	A	■	■	■
D	A	V	Y	■	H	A	L	L	M	A	R	K
A	T	E	■	I	O	N	I	A	■	B	O	O
M	A	R	K	D	O	W	N	■	A	L	T	O
■	■	■	H	O	P	E	■	V	N	E	C	K
A	N	N	A	L	S	■	O	A	T	■	■	■
B	O	O	K	■	T	O	W	N	H	A	L	L
E	T	U	I	■	E	V	E	■	E	D	I	E
D	E	N	S	■	R	A	N	■	M	E	E	T

Yesterday's answer 12-2

1	2	3	4	■	5	6	7	■	8	9	10	11
12				■	13			■	14			
15				16				■	17			
18					■	■	19	20				
■	■	■	21		22	23	■	24			■	■
25	26	27		■	28		29		■	30	31	32
33			■	34					■	35		
36			■	37				■	38			
■	■	39	40		■	41		42		■	■	■
43	44				45	■	■	46		47	48	49
50				■	51	52	53					
54					55			■	56			
57				■	58			■	59			

STUMPED? For answers to today's crossword, call **1-900-226-5955**! 99¢ per minute, touch-tone/rotary phones. (18+ only.) A King Features service, NYC.

CELEBRITIES BORN ON THIS DAY: Britney Spears, 28; Nelly Furtado, 31; Lucy Liu, 41; Stone Phillips, 55

Happy Birthday: You must listen to what others have to say this year. Get your facts straight first and you will avoid disgruntled reactions from the people you must deal with. Take your time and ease into what's going on around you. Observe before taking action. Your numbers are 6, 10, 13, 23, 28, 35, 46

ARIES (*March 21-April 19*): Push to get things done your way. Take action and you will find the success you are looking for. Good fortune is heading your way. Winnings, settlements and investments can bring you financial relief. ✪✪✪✪

TAURUS (*April 20-May 20*): You mustn't let others dictate what you do. Follow your own path and your own heart. Your gains will come if you slow down, allowing yourself to execute your actions to your own specifications. ✪✪✪

GEMINI (*May 21-June 20*): You'll be tempted to put fun before work but it will lead to financial stress if you overspend. Be smart and you can have the best of both worlds. Finish what you start and you will enjoy your downtime that much more. ✪✪✪

CANCER (*June 21-July 22*): Upfront and to the point will pay off. The experience you had with someone you used to know will help you make the right choice now. Emotional connections may be enticing but move slowly. A love triangle may develop. ✪✪✪

LEO (*July 23-Aug. 22*): Your help will be appreciated and will allow you to further your own goals in conjunction with helping others. Investments and partnerships will go hand-in-hand, resulting in financial gain and interesting prospects. ✪✪✪✪

VIRGO (*Aug. 23-Sept. 22*): A partner or loved one is likely to cause trouble. Expect changes to be pushed on you and emotional matters to escalate. You must keep the lines of communication open and honest if you want to come out unscathed. ✪✪

LIBRA (*Sept. 23-Oct. 22*): You must satisfy your own needs if you want to come up with the answers you are looking for. You will be enlightened by an experience you have while traveling or discussing your plans with someone who has a handle on what you want to pursue. ✪✪✪✪✪

SCORPIO (*Oct. 23-Nov. 21*): A deal can be put on the table or completed if you are willing to make some last-minute changes. You don't have to play by the book if you feel you aren't being treated fairly. Changes to your home or your living arrangements can be positive if you refuse to let your emotions take over. ✪✪✪

SAGITTARIUS (*Nov. 22-Dec. 21*): Hidden secrets will be divulged. Prepare to answer any questions that are asked or you will look and feel guilty. Base your actions on what you see as being most helpful to everyone involved. Consistency will count. ✪✪✪

CAPRICORN (*Dec. 22-Jan. 19*): The element of surprise will help you stay in control and keep the competition guessing. Be smart and refrain from letting others in on your secrets. A minor problem with health or a pet is likely to develop. Take care of such matters quickly. ✪✪✪

EUGENIA LAST

THE LAST WORD IN ASTROLOGY

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AQUARIUS (*Jan. 20-Feb. 18*): A move that will lessen your financial stress or enable you to be closer to someone who can contribute to your lifestyle should be made. A relationship or partnership will help to stabilize your life and lead to financial opportunities. ✪✪✪✪✪

PISCES (*Feb. 19-March 20*): You won't be able to trust everyone but, when it comes to acting on your own instincts, you will leave others scrambling. If you feel strongly about something or someone, follow your instincts. Don't let unexpected changes be your downfall. ✪✪

Birthday Baby: You have great charm and are unique, entertaining and perceptive. You change your mind quickly. You are gracious and accommodating and like to keep everyone happy.

Eugenia's Web sites: ***eugenialast.com*** *for confidential consultations,* ***myspace.com/eugenialast*** *for Eugenia's blog,* ***astroadvice.com*** *for fun*

SUDOKU

Conceptis Sudoku *By Dave Green*

				7				
1	7		8	3	2		4	9
	8		9		6	3		5
	2		3		7			4
	9		4		5			8
	6	4				7	9	
		7				1		
			7		1			
			6	5	3			

Difficulty Level ★★★ 12/02

Sudoku is a number-placing puzzle based on a 9x9 grid with several given numbers. The object is to place the numbers 1 to 9 in the empty squares so that each row, each column and each 3x3 box contains the same number only once. The difficulty level of the Conceptis Sudoku increases from Monday to Saturday.

Yesterday's SUDOKU Answer

9	4	2	5	1	3	6	8	7
3	6	8	2	7	4	1	9	5
5	7	1	6	9	8	4	3	2
7	2	3	1	4	5	9	6	8
8	1	5	9	6	2	3	7	4
4	9	6	3	8	7	2	5	1
6	8	9	7	2	1	5	4	3
2	3	7	4	5	6	8	1	9
1	5	4	8	3	9	7	2	6

Difficulty Level ★★ 12/01

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WONDERWORD®

By DAVID OUELLET

HOW TO PLAY: All the words listed below appear in the puzzle — horizontally, vertically, diagonally, even backward. Find them and **CIRCLE THEIR LETTERS ONLY. DO NOT CIRCLE THE WORD.** The leftover letters spell the Wonderword.

FROSTED MUGS **Solution: 5 letters**

T	B	R	E	H	D	R	E	L	D	N	A	H	P	N
R	E	E	H	C	T	E	A	L	A	G	E	R	O	R
O	V	M	F	P	A	O	P	I	S	I	F	S	P	E
I	E	M	P	R	V	F	O	P	S	S	A	I	U	L
R	R	U	R	E	E	A	R	M	I	E	T	P	L	B
E	A	S	I	P	R	E	P	U	S	D	S	P	A	M
T	G	O	N	A	N	A	Z	O	S	T	R	I	R	U
X	E	U	T	R	O	U	T	E	R	T	I	N	L	T
E	Z	V	E	E	E	D	R	U	R	E	H	G	E	I
E	A	E	D	D	I	V	R	E	R	U	T	X	E	T
V	L	N	(P)	G	I	O	N	F	L	E	H	S	F	R
E	G	(I)	I	N	V	D	E	L	L	I	H	C	A	E
N	(N)	R	G	A	Y	R	E	Y	A	L	I	G	H	T
(T)	F	U	L	L	E	C	N	A	R	A	E	P	P	A
N	T	F	I	L	F	U	N	K	Y	R	T	N	I	W

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Appearance, Beverage, Cheer, Chilled, Design, Dipped, Event, Exterior, Feel, Film, Flavor, Freezer, Frigid, Full, Funky, Glaze, Handle, Lager, Layer, Lift, Light, Outer, Pint, Popular, Prepared, Printed, Raise, Season, Serving, Shelf, Sipping, Smooth, Souvenir, Summer, Surface, Taste, Tavern, Temperature, Texture, Thirst, Trendy, Tumbler, Vapor, Water, Wintry

Yesterday's Answer: Refunds

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WHATZIT Solution: Mixed salad

Robert Tenorio Torres
Attorney at Law
Plata Drive, Whispering Palms (Chalan Kiya)
P.O. Box 503758
Saipan, MP 96950

Tel.: (670) 234-7859
Fax. (670) 234-5749

Attorney for Bank of Guam

IN THE SUPERIOR COURT OF THE COMMONWEALTH OF THE NORTHERN MARIANA ISLANDS

BANK OF GUAM, Plaintiff, vs. **MELINDA T. TAKAI,** Defendant.	Civil Action No. 09-0264-CV **AMENDED SUMMONS**

TO: **THE ABOVE-NAMED DEFENDANT MELINDA T. TAKAI**

YOU ARE HEREBY SUMMONED TO APPEAR by the 21st day after the fourth date of publication of this AMENDED SUMMONS and defend the above entitled action in the CNMI SUPERIOR COURT, at the Office of Clerk of Court, CNMI SUPERIOR COURT, 1st Floor, Guma' Hustisia, Iimwal Aweewe, House of Justice, Susupe Village, P.O. Box 500307, Saipan MP 96950-0307; and answer the complaint of the plaintiff Bank of Guam, and serve a copy of your answer upon **Robert Tenorio Torres**, attorney for Plaintiff Bank of Guam, at **Plata Drive, Whispering Palms (Chalan Kiya) P.O. Box 503758, Saipan, MP 96950**; and in case of failure to do so, judgement will be rendered against you according to the demand of the COMPLAINT, which has been filed with the Clerk of Court.

So **ORDERED** this 5th day of August, 2009.

/s/ Bernardita A. Sablan
Clerk of Court

NOTICE OF INTENTION TO WITHDRAW AND NOTICE OF APPLICATION TO WITHRAW

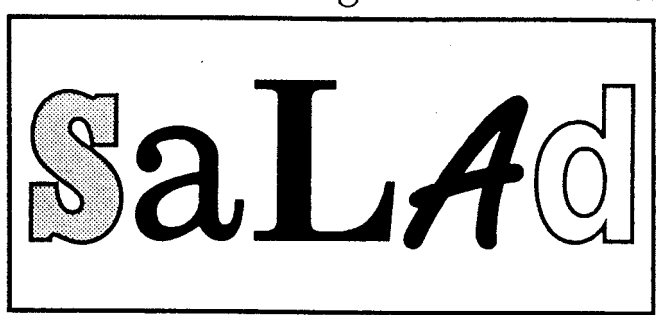
Following a strategic review of our business in the region, notice is being given that MITSUI SUMITOMO INSURANCE CO., LTD. intends to withdraw from the insurance business in the CNMI. Pursuant to 20 NMIAC § 20-40.1-210, an application for an Order permitting withdrawal from the insurance business in the CNMI has been filed with the Office of the Insurance Commissioner, Department of Commerce, CNMI.

All persons interested in this matter should contact Rodney J. Rankin, Aon Insurance Micronesia (Saipan), Inc. as General Agent for Mitsui Sumitom Insurance Co., Ltd., P.O. Box 502177, Garapan, Saipan, MP 96950 or (670) 234-2811.

Mitsui Sumitomo Insurance Co., Ltd.

WHATZIT?™

Find the familiar phrase, saying or name in this arrangement of letters.



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Saints stay unbeaten with 38-17 victory over Patriots

NEW ORLEANS (AP)—Drew Brees and the unbeaten Saints left Tom Brady in the dust, zipping up and down the field in a dominant romp over the New England Patriots.

Brees threw for a season-high 371 yards and five touchdowns, carving up coach Bill Belichick's defense like few quarterbacks ever have in New Orleans' 38-17 victory Monday night.

By harassing Brady all game and routing one of the NFL's top powers, the Saints joined the Indianapolis Colts at 11-0—the first time two NFL teams have opened with that many consecutive wins in the same season.

"It only counts for one win on the stat sheet, but emotionally, those types of wins can mean a little more," Brees said. "Anytime you can win, and win that way, it builds confidence for you."

The convincing victory left little doubt about New Orleans' credentials as the Saints try to match the Patriots' 16-0 regular-season mark in 2007. New England remains the only team to go undefeated in a 16-game regular season—for now.

Brees threw touchdown passes to five different players: Pierre Thomas, Devery Henderson, Robert Meachem, Darnell Dinkins and Marques Colston. In doing so, the Pro Bowl quarterback kept New Orleans on pace to narrowly eclipse New England's single-season scoring record of 589 points set in 2007.

It was the second time the Patriots (7-4) lost to an unbeaten team on the road in three weeks. Unlike in Indianapolis, there was no drama at the end this time, only thunderous chants of, "Who dat say they gonna beat them Saints?"

"There's obviously a big gap between us," Brady said. "It wasn't nearly as competitive as we all were expecting."

Brady, returning to the Louisiana Superdome for the first time since leading the Patriots to their first Super Bowl title in 2002, won't have many fond memories of this game. He was intercepted twice, sacked once, hit as he threw several times and pulled from the game in the fourth quarter with New Orleans leading by three TDs.

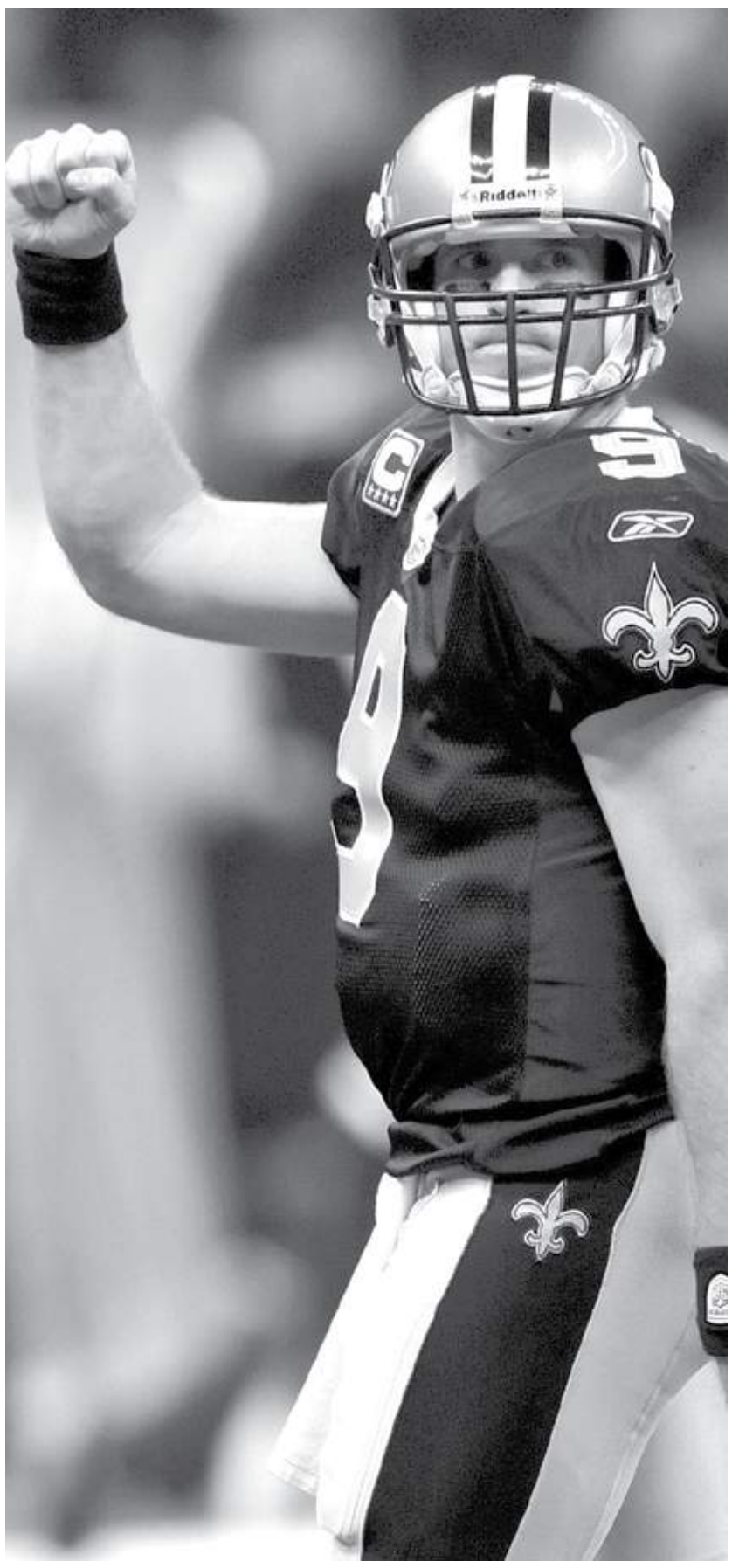
"There's a reason why they are 11-0," Brady said. "They played really well and we didn't play up to their level."

Brady finished 21 of 36 for 237 yards and did not throw a TD pass. He did, however, become New England's career passing leader, eclipsing Drew Bledsoe's mark of 29,657 yards.

Brady fell short of tying the record for consecutive games with 300 yards passing. He had done it in his previous five games, one short of the mark shared by Steve Young, Kurt Warner and Rich Gannon.

The Patriots were within a touchdown early in the third quarter after marching 81 yards on a drive highlighted by Brady's 47-yard completion to Randy Moss, which set up Laurence Maroney's 2-yard TD.

New Orleans needed only three plays to get it back, though. Brees hit Colston along the right sideline and the receiver turned it into a 68-yard gain by eluding Jonathan Wilhite's tackle. That set up tight end Dinkins' first TD of the season on a 2-yard pass to make it 31-17.



AP

New Orleans Saints quarterback Drew Brees pumps his fist after his 20-yard touchdown pass to Marques Colston during the fourth quarter of an NFL football game against the New England Patriots, Monday, Nov. 30, 2009, in New Orleans.

Belichick, clearly worried about his club's ability to stop Brees, made his latest unconventional fourth-down call.

Unlike in Indianapolis, where the Patriots tried to put the game away by going for it in their own territory late in the fourth quarter, New England this time went for it on fourth-and-4 from the New Orleans 10 in the third quarter.

Brady's pass for Moss along the left sideline was broken up by Mike McKenzie, who was playing for the first time since fracturing his right kneecap a year ago. The play preserved New Orleans' two-touchdown lead.

McKenzie apparently had little trouble learning the system of new Saints defensive coordinator Gregg Williams. McKenzie also had an interception in the first half that stalled a promising Patriots drive and led to a Saints score. Darren Sharper intercepted Brady in the fourth quarter, ending the quarterback's night.

Brees' scoring passes of 18 yards to Thomas, 75 yards to Henderson and 38 yards to Meachem gave New Orleans a 24-10 lead at halftime.

Brees—who threw six TDs in Week 1 against Detroit—made the long TD to Henderson look easy, recognizing that Wilhite's blitz had left the receiver wide open. Brees' 20-yard TD pass to Colston with 7:49 to go left little doubt about the outcome.

Woods withdraws from own tourney, citing injuries

THOUSAND OAKS, Calif. (AP)—Tiger Woods still isn't talking. Now he's not playing, either. Woods withdrew Monday from his own golf tournament, citing injuries from a car crash near his Florida home. His decision comes as questions continue to mount regarding what exactly happened in the wee hours of the morning last Friday—questions that most certainly would have been asked of him had he played.

The world's No. 1 golfer posted a statement on his Web site saying that unspecified injuries prevented him from playing in the Chevron World Challenge. He had been scheduled to hold a press conference Tuesday for the tournament, which he hosts annually for a small, invited, field.

"I am extremely disappointed that I will not be at my tournament this week," Woods said. "I am certain it will be an outstanding event and I'm very sorry that I can't be there."

Tournament officials said fans who bought advance tickets with the hope of seeing Woods could get refunds beginning next week. Those who keep their tickets will get a 20 percent discount when they buy them next year.

Woods sustained cuts and bruises when he crashed his SUV into a fire hydrant and a tree at 2:25 a.m. Friday, outside his home in an exclusive, gated community near Orlando. He was treated at a hospital and released, and has not been seen in public since.

By skipping the tournament, Woods will escape the TV cameras and a horde of media seeking more details about the smashup. The tournament was to be the last of the year for Woods anyway, and he did not say when or where he would make his return next year.

The first tournament of the 2010 PGA Tour is the SBS Championship in Hawaii, an event for winners from the previous year, beginning Jan. 7, but Woods wasn't expected to be there. He's more likely to play at Torrey Pines in San Diego the week of Jan. 25.

Woods released a statement Sunday saying the accident was his fault and asked that it remain "a private matter." But with the Florida Highway Patrol still investigating and the media in full pursuit, Woods may not get his way.

Woods even faced questions from fans who left comments on his Web site. Most voiced support for him, but some said he should address the questions about his own actions and those of his wife, Elin Nordegren, before and after the accident.

Woods hasn't answered questions from Florida troopers, either, turning them down three days in a row when they came to his house.

Four cars were parked in Woods' driveway Monday, but no lights appeared to be on inside. A new fire hydrant had already replaced the one that Woods plowed into. A dirt hole and an orange barricade remained in the old hydrant's place.

Linda Adams, Woods' neighbor, confirmed to the Orlando Sentinel that someone in her home other than her husband, Jerome, called authorities.

The Associated Press called the Adams home Monday and asked to speak to the Adams' son Jarius, who's believed to have made the call. The woman who answered the telephone told a reporter to call back later in the day. When the AP called back Monday evening, attorney Bill Sharpe answered and said he was representing the family. He said there was no comment at this time, but said a statement might be made Tuesday.

Woods, who both hosts and plays in the Chevron World Challenge, was there last year even though he couldn't play because he was recovering from knee surgery. His absence this year will be the first since the tournament—which has only an 18-player field—began in 1999. He was replaced by Graeme McDowell.

Only a few players were at Sherwood Country Club late Monday afternoon. Padraig Harrington was on the golf course and didn't get word until later that the host was not going to be there.

"It would be a nice opportunity this time of year to go head-to-head with him, but it's not to be," Harrington said.

He said Woods' absence would be felt all week, until the back nine on Sunday when the focus probably will shift to who's winning the event, and the $1.35 million prize.

Though he cited injuries from the accident in withdrawing, Woods didn't specifically say what those injuries included. The neighbor, who called 911 after Woods ran over the hydrant and hit a tree, said he was unconscious and lying outside his SUV. His wife told Windermere police she used a golf club to smash the back windows to help him out.

"This is a private matter and I want to keep it that way," Woods said in a statement Sunday, his first since the crash. "Although I understand there is curiosity, the many false, unfounded and malicious rumors that are currently circulating about my family and me are irresponsible. ...

"I appreciate all the concern and well wishes that we have received," he said. "But, I would also ask for some understanding that my family and I deserve some privacy no matter how intrusive some people can be."

The reference to "false, unfounded and malicious rumors" may have involved a story published last week in the National Enquirer alleging that Woods had been seeing a New York nightclub hostess, and that they recently were together in Melbourne, where Woods competed in the Australian Masters.

The woman, Rachel Uchitel, denied having an affair with Woods when contacted by The Associated Press. On Sunday, she flew to Los Angeles and was met by high-profile attorney Gloria Allred at the airport.

Still, even the release of the 911 tape and Woods' statement failed to answer several basic questions about the accident:

- Where he was going at that time of the night?
- How did he lose control of his SUV when it wasn't going fast enough to deploy airbags?
- Why were both rear windows of the Cadillac Escalade smashed?
- If it was a careless mistake, why not speak to state troopers trying to wrap the investigation?

Terry's jumper lifts Mavericks past 76ers

DALLAS (AP)—Jason Terry made a 17-footer with 1.4 seconds left, Dirk Nowitzki had 28 points and the Dallas Mavericks handed the Philadelphia 76ers their seventh straight loss, 104-102 Monday night.

Jason Kidd chipped in with a season-high 22 points and 11 assists. The Mavericks blew a 17-point lead before winning on Terry's shot.

Andre Iguodala hit a 3-pointer with 5.6 seconds remaining to tie it at 102. He missed badly on a desperation jumper at the buzzer.

Willie Green scored a season-high 23 points, and Elton Brand and Thaddeus Young each had 21 for the 76ers, who met with Allen Iverson earlier Monday to discuss a possible return to the team.

Team president Ed Stefanski said in a statement that both parties remain noncommittal about a final decision after a nearly two-hour meeting Monday.

Iverson, his agent and business manager met with Stefanski, coach Eddie Jordan and two other members of the organization during the first formal meeting between the Sixers and their former MVP.

"All of us liked what he talked about today. I'm not going to share that," Jordan said. "He's a charming individual. It was really good, really intriguing."

The Mavericks led 92-81 midway through the fourth before the 76ers started their comeback.

Young had seven straight points for Philadelphia, including a 3-pointer with one minute left that brought the Sixers to 101-99.

Kidd hit one of two free throws with 10.6 seconds left. Iguodala tied it with his 3-pointer from the top of the key over Shawn Marion, setting the stage for Terry's winner.

Terry caught the inbounds pass, faked a shot over Willie Green and swished a turnaround jumper on the baseline.

The Mavericks (13-5) are off to their best start since 2006-07, the season they won a franchise-best 67 games.

Kidd scored 13 points in the first quarter, then keyed a big run just before halftime with his passing.

The point guard had three assists in a 14-3 spurt that gave the Mavericks a 53-36 lead. Kidd made an inbounds alley oop pass to Marion for a dunk with 2.1 seconds left in the second quarter, giving Dallas a 57-43 halftime cushion.

Brand returned to the Sixers lineup after missing three game with a sore right hamstring. The forward was 8 of 12 from the floor and grabbed 10 rebounds in 25 minutes off the bench.

Philadelphia may be getting more reinforcements with the possible return of their longtime star.

Iverson, a 10-time All-Star who retired last week, is among the free-agent candidates the Sixers are considering to replace injured point guard Lou Williams, who's expected to miss eight weeks after jaw surgery.

Iverson announced his intention to retire last week after no other team expressed an interest in signing the four-time scoring champion. The 6-foot Iverson played three games this season with Memphis before taking a leave of absence to attend to personal matters. He was waived after the two sides agreed to part ways.

AP

Dallas Mavericks guard Jason Terry releases a shot for the go-ahead basket as Dirk Nowitzki, left, of Germany, watches and Philadelphia 76ers' Thaddeus Young stands in the foreground during the second half of an NBA basketball game, Monday, Nov. 30, 2009, in Dallas.

Bucks 99, Bulls 97

At Milwaukee, Andrew Bogut returned from an injury with 22 points, 15 rebounds and two big blocks in the closing minutes to rally Milwaukee past Chicago after squandering a big lead.

Bogut was supposed to be out up to four weeks with a lower left leg strain, but the former No. 1 pick only missed six games and proved to be the spark Milwaukee badly needed to snap a four-game losing streak.

John Salmons had 23 points, Luol Deng 22 points and 14 rebounds and Joakim Noah 16 points and 17 rebounds for the Bulls, who rallied after trailing 70-56 midway through the third.

Jazz 120, Grizzlies 93

At Salt Lake City, Carlos Boozer had 24 points, 15 rebounds and seven assists as Utah equaled its season-best winning streak with a third straight victory.

The Jazz scored their most points this season and beat the Grizzlies for the 10th straight time, going 45 for 77 from the floor and hitting 7-of-14 3-pointers.

Ronnie Brewer was one off his career high with 25 points and Wesley Matthews scored 17, going 6 for 7 from the floor. Deron Williams had 22 points and six assists for the Jazz.

O.J. Mayo had 20 points to lead the Grizzlies.

Warriors 126, Pacers 107

At Oakland, California, Monta Ellis scored a career-high 45 points and Anthony Morrow added 18 as injury-riddled Golden State beat Indiana to win for just the third time in eight games.

Ellis went 15 of 27 from the floor, made 14 of 16 free throws and added five rebounds in topping his previous best of 42 points while leading Golden State back from a 15-point deficit in the first half.

Mike Dunleavy, who played his first four-plus seasons with the Warriors, came off the bench with 22 points while Danny Granger added 22 points and seven rebounds for Indiana.

Golden State played its fourth straight game without head coach Don Nelson, who has pneumonia. Nelson is expected back Thursday against Houston.

Source: Vandeweghe to coach Nets rest of season

New Jersey Nets general manager Kiki Vandeweghe is set to become the team's coach for the rest of the season.

He doesn't have to worry about being on the bench for a potential record-setting loss, though.

Vandeweghe won't coach his first game with the team until Friday, a person with knowledge of the team's plans told The Associated Press on Monday. The person requested anonymity because the Nets don't plan to announce their plans until a press conference Tuesday morning.

Tom Barrise, who led the team Sunday night after Lawrence Frank was fired, will coach again Wednesday against Dallas, when the Nets can set an NBA record with an 18th straight loss to begin a season.

Former NBA head coach Del Harris will join the Nets as Vandeweghe's assistant. The pair previously worked together in Dallas.

The Nets fired Frank, their coach for 6 1/2 seasons, on Sunday morning. They lost to the Lakers under Barrise, tying the 1988-89 Miami Heat and 1999 Los Angeles Clippers by losing 17 consecutive games to open a season.

They interviewed candidates Monday and decided to go with Vandeweghe, who previously worked as an assistant with the Mavericks but has never been a head coach.

But with an injury-depleted roster that wasn't competitive during most of its four-game trip out West, coaching experience is far from the team's only problem.

"It doesn't matter who the coach is. If we don't change some of the habits, not much is going to change throughout the team," point guard Devin Harris said Sunday night.

The Nets likely didn't have many options, because they can't make a long-term commitment to any potential candidates.

Russian billionaire Mikhail Prokhorov has a deal to buy 80 percent of the team, a sale that could be approved by NBA owners by the end of next month. If it goes through, he could decide to bring in his own basketball people.

So Vandeweghe's future with the team is uncertain no matter how he fares as coach.

Vandeweghe, whose contract expires after this season, becomes the second GM to assume the coaching duties of an NBA team this season. Jeff Bower moved to the bench when the New Orleans Hornets fired Byron Scott. ***(AP)***

76ers meet with Iverson

PHILADELPHIA (AP)—Allen Iverson and the Philadelphia 76ers have met to discuss a possible return to the team.

Team president Ed Stefanski said in a statement that both parties remain noncommittal about a final decision after a nearly two-hour meeting Monday in Dallas. The 76ers are in town to play the Dallas Mavericks on Monday night.

Iverson, his agent and business manager met with Stefanski, coach Eddie Jordan and two other members of the organization during the first formal meeting between the Sixers and their former MVP.

Stefanski said the Sixers "will continue to discuss internally whether or not to pursue this course."

The 10-time All-Star, who retired last week, is among the free-agent candidates the Sixers are considering to replace injured point guard Lou Williams, who's expected to miss eight weeks after jaw surgery.

Iverson announced his intention to retire last week after no other team expressed an interest is signing the four-time scoring champion. The 6-foot Iverson played three games this season with Memphis before taking a leave of absence to attend to personal matters. He was waived after the two sides agreed to part ways.

The New York Knicks considered signing Iverson after he cleared waivers, before deciding he would take too much playing time from younger players they are trying to develop.

Iverson, the No. 1 overall pick in the 1996 draft, played 10-plus seasons with the 76ers. He was traded to Denver in December 2006, and was then dealt to Detroit early last season.

The 34-year-old Iverson, who has never won an NBA championship, wouldn't be returning to a winner in Philadelphia. The Sixers have lost six straight games and are 13th in the Eastern Conference under first-year coach Eddie Jordan.

Williams' injury has paved the way for rookie Jrue Holiday, the 17th pick in the draft, to start.

Iverson had a bitter parting with the Sixers in 2006, making this a truly surprising reconciliation. But both parties are in various states of desperation. The Sixers need a guard on the roster and an electrifying personality such as Iverson to jolt sagging ticket sales. Iverson wants to prove he's not finished yet and can still play at his All-Star level.

Ed Snider, chairman of Comcast-Spectacor, which owns the 76ers and Flyers, is leaving the decision up to Stefanski.

"While nothing has been decided ... I support him and his basketball decisions," he said Monday.

Snider declared "we're going to trade him" 11 days before the Sixers sent him to Denver in 2006. His approval was considered necessary for Iverson and the Sixers to reunite. But it appears he'll let Stefanski make the final call.

Iverson was joined by longtime business manager Gary Moore and agent Leon Rose in the meeting. Rose did not immediately return a call for comment.

Sixers assistant general manager Tony DiLeo and assistant coach Aaron McKie, a former Iverson teammate, also attended the meeting.

Iverson led the Sixers to the NBA finals in 2001. The Sixers have not won a playoff series since 2003.

Islanders rule indoor volleyball tourney

By ROSELYN B. MONROYO
roselyn_monroyo@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

The Islanders triumphed in the 2009 Thanks 4 Giving Indoor Volleyball Tournament held over the weekend at the Gilbert C. Ada Gymnasium.

The Islanders ruled the four-team men's division after downing Naw Mean in the finals in straight sets on Sunday, 26-24, 25-13.

The four participating squads in the men's division played in a double-round robin elimination. The Islanders, who were led by Pete Iguel, Myron Laniyo, and Mike Olaitiman, finished first in the preliminary round with its 5-1 record. Naw Mean was second with a 4-2 slate, followed by Get It, Got It, Good (3-3), and Cheesecake (0-6).

In the first round of the playoffs, the Islanders were pitted against the last-ranked Cheesecake and the former easily advanced to the semifinals with a 25-23, 25-15 win. The other first round pairing had Naw Mean beating Get It, Got It, Good, 25-23, 25-27, 16-14.

Naw Mean and the Islanders fought for the first finals seat and the latter needed three sets to pull off a win, 245-21, 23-25, 15-8, and move to the championship game.

In the loser's bracket Get It, Got It, Good swept Cheesecake, 25-12, 25-14, to keep its finals bid alive. Get It, Got It, Good then dueled Naw Mean for the second and last finals berth and the do-or-die game ended in favor of the latter.

Naw Mean took the first set, 25-23, but failed to wrap up the match early when Get It, Got It, Good recovered in the second set with a 25-22 triumph. The deciding third set had Naw Mean escaping with a 15-12 victory to set up a rematch with the Islanders.

The Islanders then completed their unbeaten record in the playoffs with a straight set win over Naw Mean in the finals.

In the women's division, only two teams played in the weekend tournament, namely Seikid and Peligro Amigas. Seikid took the title in three sets winning the first, 25-10, and the deciding third set, 15-7. Peligro Amigas forced a third set when they escaped with a 25-23 win in the second set.

An Islanders player goes for a kill against two Get It, Got It, Good blockers during their game in the 2009 Thanks 4 Giving Indoor Volleyball Tournament on Saturday at the Gilbert C. Ada Gymnasium.

ROSELYN B. MONROYO

NMA extends kudos to runners, sponsors

Northern Marianas Athletics would like to thank all of the participants who braved the 25th Annual Mt. Tapochao Turkey Trot Fun Run on Thanksgiving Day last week.

NMA would also like to appreciate the tremendous generosity and support of the following companies and individuals who helped to make the Turkey Trot's Silver Anniversary a success: Price Costco, IT&E, NTT Docomo Pacific, Duty Free Shoppers (DFS) Saipan, Ltd., the Pacific Islands Club (P.I.C.) Saipan, the Hyatt Regency Saipan, Coca-Cola Beverage Company (Micronesia), Inc., Herman's Modern Bakery, Inc., Mariano Chiropractic Clinic, and Adidas.

Special thanks to Rep. Ed T. Salas and all of the awesome officials and volunteers from NMA.

Ketson "Jack" Kabiriel and Mamiko Oshima-Berger were the overall winners in the men's and women's divisions of the 4.2-mile. Kabiriel timed in at 40 minutes and 16 seconds, breaking his record of 41:00 last year when he placed runner-up to Eli Torgeson.

Kabiriel triumphed over Kam Bae Ji (40:58) and Mike Brown (43:21). Oshima-Berger was the fourth overall finisher with her time of 43:56.

Other top finishers in various age groups were John Auther, Angelo Jones, Lia Rangamar, Katie Peters, Nikki Gabaldon, Josh Stevens, Kam, Dan Calvo, and Andrea Ozawa. ***(PR)***

DCCA

From Page 28

take a 48-30 halftime lead.

MBI turned the ball over one after another midway in the second quarter, leaving IT&E several opportunities to score on fastbreak plays. Elmer Esdrelon scored 11 points off those errors, while Darwin Barbo added eight.

IT&E protected the double-digit lead in the third period, as MBI continued to play erratic and had limited option on offense with only Ivan De Vero consistently scoring.

MBI then had a mini-run at the start of the fourth period with De Vero hitting seven of the team's first nine points to cut the lead to eight 62-70.

Bruce Berline knocked down a rally halting basket down low to bring the lead back to double-digits and IT&E hung in there to advance to the next round.

MBI's bid for a come-from-behind bid suffered a big blow when De Vero was forced to seat on the bench in the remaining half of the fourth quarter after colliding with Jomary Tumaquip on a loose ball play. He left the court limping and watched his teammates fell short of grabbing the win.

MBI must win against the loser of the Tinian-PSS tiff to stay alive. IT&E will face the victor of the Docomo-CPA duel for a semifinals berth.

First Game

DCCA 77 – Iginoef 20, P. Camacho 18, Rasa 14, Rangamar 11, Van Buren 10, Benavente 4.

Hyatt 68 – Sablan 25, Mateo 17, Lizama 14, Aquino 8, Gabaldon 3.

Scoring by quarters: 12-16, 34-39, 47-53, 77-68.

Second Game

IT&E 90 – Sanciangco 26, Barbo 21, Esdrelon 19, Renguul 8, Berline 6, Mendoza 6, Tumaquip 2.

MBI 74 – De Vero 20, Trajano 12, Gapor 8, Capalad 8, Demapan 8, Nonato 6, Alvarez 4, Barbo 2.

Scoring by quarters: 16-16, 48-30, 70-53, 90-74.

SIZZLERS

From Page 28

to Star Aces (5-2) on Nov. 27. An advantage set is played before and after the single round-robin tournament, bringing each team's matches to seven. Draws will determine which teams are playing in advantage set.

The pairs of Cheng Saturno and Marlene Peraja, Daniel Macario and Ariel Mariano, and Gary Bandoja and Daniel Macario gave the Sizzlers three wins in doubles. Ezekiel Macario defeated Carlo Dotimas in the men's singles to secure the win and help the Sizzlers settle an old score with Air Benders.

Despite the loss, Air Benders is still in the lead in the six-team tournament with their 18-10 record. However, the Robert Reyes-captained Air Benders is ahead by only a point against second-running Katipuneros.

The Sizzlers remained in the bottom of the team standings with their 10-18 mark.

Katipuneros 4, Star Aces 3

Katipuneros inched closer to the No. 1 spot after beating Star Aces, 4-3.

Providing the needed victories for Katipuneros were the teams of Macoi Aguda and Jerry Hibi (men's AA doubles), Malou Malasarte and Loida Ito (women's BB), Mario Diola and Vic Regis (men's BB), and Aguda and Regis (men's AB).

With their four wins, Katipuneros improved to a 17-11 record, while Star Aces dropped to an 11-17 slate.

Star Aces drew victories from the pair of Hapi Gabriel and Cristy Villaflor (mixed AB) and Jorge Olanda and Rodwealth Espana (men's BC). Espana won his second game on the same day after outclassing Puy Macario in the men's C singles, 21-16, 21-13.

Smashers 5, Bombers 2

Magnum Smashers improved from fourth to third place after defusing the TNT Bombers, 5-2.

The Smashers, who now hold a 15-13 record, two wins ahead of the Bombers' 13-15, had straight wins in the men's AA doubles, mixed AB, women's BB, and men's C singles. The lone third-setter game in the Smashers-Bombers tiff had the former's Andreau Galvez and Obet Aguilar outlasting Edwin Montoya and Jojo Savellano in the men's AB doubles.

The teams of Savellano and Roger Vales (men's BB) and Joey Algenio and Vales (men's BC) gave the Bombers two wins.

3 TEAMS

From Page 28

was beaten to second base.

Team Fuegu 16, 6-Pack 15

In the second game, Team Fuegu had a rousing start and then halted 6-Pack's rally in the last three innings to eke out a 16-15 win.

Team Fuegu had an eight-run bottom of the eight behind Paul Lizama's three-run homer to seize control of the game. 6-Pack closed in and even tied the match, 15-all, after making 10 runs in the fifth and sixth inning, before falling short at the top of the seventh.

After the 15-all tally, going at the bottom of the sixth, Tonichi Iguel' single drove Lizama home for Team Fuegu's 16-15 lead. At the top of the seventh, 6-Pack failed to score when its first three batters were thrown out.

Lizama led Team Fuegu's debut win, going 4-for-4 and scoring three runs and four RBIs.

Red Eye 25, Go For Broke 14

In the last game, Red Eye leaned on a 14-run bottom of the third to cruise to an easy victory.

All players on Red Eye's batting lineup made it home in the third inning and three even scored twice. Centerfielder Luis Arriola went 2-for-2, had one double and scored two runs and three RBIs. Leftfielder Bryce Sablan had a two-run double and also tallied two runs, while outfielder Cedric Palacios scored one RBI and two runs.

Red Eye pitcher Ping Santos recorded only one RBI, but was perfect at the plate, going 5-for-5, hitting one double, and posting five runs. Sablan and Zack Dela Cruz hit 4-for-5 apiece with the latter adding four runs.

Go for Broke led after two complete innings, 5-1, before Red Eye started hitting its target at the bottom of the third to grab the driver's seat and pull away for an easy win.

The Chamolinian softball league will have a single-round robin format in the regular season with the Top 10 teams advancing to the double-elimination playoffs. Teams which will not make the cut will have their own single-elimination playoffs to determine the winner of the lower half bracket.

"This is a first in CNMI softball. The reason why we came up with this format is to give other teams that didn't make it to the Top 10 a chance to play more games. It's just like college basketball, NIT Tournament. A lot of teams in this league are family teams and are in it for fun and just to bring family and friends together, so having an additional tournament for them is our way of giving back to the softball community," league coordinator Joey Dela Cruz said.

FORMER

From Page 28

vary Christian Academy before moving to the mainland, where he starred for Webb School of Knoxville.

Alexander was a four-year starter for the Spartan's varsity baseball team and has been a mainstay for Webb in the outfield and on the mound.

He finished the 2009 season with a .360 batting average and 25 runs scored, 13 doubles, one triple, three homeruns, 18 RBIs, and nine stolen bases.

In 57 innings pitched for the season, Alexander compiled a 3.07 ERA with 72 strikeouts, five wins and one save. He was named to the Division II East All-Region Team and was selected for both Tennessee Baseball Coaches Association (TBCA) Underclassman and All-Region for Region One teams.

Webb's head varsity baseball coach Clark Wormsley gave Alexander high marks and wished him luck in his college career.

"Justin is an outstanding baseball player and should do extremely well at the next level," he said. "He's a high energy player and his enthusiasm is contagious. Justin has worked hard to become the best player he can be and has had a significant, positive impact on our program."

Tennessee Tech's athletics teams compete in the Ohio Valley Conference for 16 sports on the NCAA Division I level. The Golden Eagles are known as true scholar-athletes, carrying a higher average GPA than the student body, while competing for and winning conference championships.

TRIBUNE SPORTS SCORES

NBA STANDINGS

EASTERN CONFERENCE

Atlantic Division

	W	L	Pct	GB
Boston	13	4	.765	—
Toronto	7	11	.389	6 1/2
Philadelphia	5	13	.278	8 1/2
New York	3	14	.176	10
New Jersey	0	17	.000	13

Southeast Division

Orlando	14	4	.778	—
Atlanta	12	5	.706	1 1/2
Miami	9	7	.563	4
Charlotte	7	9	.438	6
Washington	5	10	.333	7 1/2

Central Division

Cleveland	12	5	.706	—
Milwaukee	9	7	.563	2 1/2
Chicago	6	9	.400	5
Indiana	6	9	.400	5
Detroit	6	11	.353	6

WESTERN CONFERENCE

Southwest Division

Dallas	13	5	.722	—
San Antonio	9	6	.600	2 1/2
Houston	9	8	.529	3 1/2
New Orleans	7	10	.412	5 1/2
Memphis	6	12	.333	7

Northwest Division

Denver	12	5	.706	—
Portland	12	7	.632	1
Utah	10	7	.588	2
Oklahoma City	9	8	.529	3
Minnesota	2	15	.118	10

Pacific Division

Phoenix	14	3	.824	—
L.A. Lakers	13	3	.813	1/2
Sacramento	8	8	.500	5 1/2
L.A. Clippers	8	10	.444	6 1/2
Golden State	6	10	.375	7 1/2

Yesterday's Games
Milwaukee 99, Chicago 97
Dallas 104, Philadelphia 102
Utah 120, Memphis 93
Golden State 126, Indiana 107

NFL STANDINGS

AMERICAN CONFERENCE

East

	W	L	T	Pct	PF	PA
New England	7	4	0	.636	307	202
Miami	5	6	0	.455	256	275
N.Y. Jets	5	6	0	.455	230	195
Buffalo	4	7	0	.364	186	242
South						
x-Indianapolis	11	0	0	1.000	304	184
Jacksonville	6	5	0	.545	202	255
Tennessee	5	6	0	.455	229	289
Houston	5	6	0	.455	259	243
North						
Cincinnati	8	3	0	.727	231	174
Baltimore	6	5	0	.545	257	188
Pittsburgh	6	5	0	.545	248	204
Cleveland	1	10	0	.091	122	279
West						
San Diego	8	3	0	.727	312	219
Denver	7	4	0	.636	196	189
Kansas City	3	8	0	.273	183	282
Oakland	3	8	0	.273	115	258

NATIONAL CONFERENCE

East

Dallas	8	3	0	.727	255	182
Philadelphia	7	4	0	.636	293	228
N.Y. Giants	6	5	0	.545	272	261
Washington	3	8	0	.273	170	205
South						
New Orleans	11	0	0	1.000	407	221
Atlanta	6	5	0	.545	272	245
Carolina	4	7	0	.364	199	256
Tampa Bay	1	10	0	.091	181	314
North						
Minnesota	10	1	0	.909	342	203
Green Bay	7	4	0	.636	296	215
Chicago	4	7	0	.364	216	261
Detroit	2	9	0	.182	193	335
West						
Arizona	7	4	0	.636	267	217
San Francisco	5	6	0	.455	228	213
Seattle	4	7	0	.364	223	250
St. Louis	1	10	0	.091	130	297

x-clinched division

Yesterday's Game
New Orleans 38, New England 17

BY THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

LOCAL SCORES

NMBA STANDINGS

Air Benders	18	10
Katipuneros	17	11
Magnum	15	13
Bombers	13	15
Star Aces	11	17
Sizzlers	10	18

2009 PILCOWA Basketball League Opening

PHOTOS By ROSELYN B. MONROYO

Cool Water (left) and Wushin players attend the opening ceremony of the PILCOWA caging.

Wushin team members receive their Best in Uniform trophy in the masters division.

Noni Saipan's John Jugos, right, muse Venus, second left, receive the Best in Uniform trophy in the open division.

Noni Saipan and University of Loyola players sing the Philippine National Anthem.

Players of IT&E pose with their muse Pebbles Basilgo.

University of Loyola players and their muse Doll Carranza join the parade of teams.

Philippine consulate general, Medardo G. Macaraig addresses players, spectators, and league officials during his brief remarks in the opening of the PILCOWA caging.

Players of defending champion Diamond Ali'i pose with their muse Sheila Comaingking.

IT&E's Pebbles Basilgo, third right, is awarded the Best Muse trophy during the opening ceremony of the 2009 PILCOWA Basketball League at the JP Centre Basketball Court last month. Joining her are league officials and Philippine consulate general, Medardo G. Macaraig, third left.

Ebisuya and GEC Pawnshop players sing the Philippine National Anthem.

Islanders rule indoor volleyball tourney

The Islanders triumphed in the 2009 Thanks 4 Giving Indoor Volleyball Tournament held over the weekend at the Gilbert C. Ada Gymnasium. **26**

Saipan Tribune
Sports

Saints stay unbeaten with 38-17 win over Patriots

Drew Brees and the unbeaten Saints left Tom Brady in the dust, zipping up and down the field in a dominant romp over the New England Patriots. **24**

DCCA upsets Hyatt, IT&E survives MBI

By ROSELYN B. MONROYO
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REPORTER

Upset marked the start of the playoff round of the 2009 IT&E Inter-Government/Business Basketball League after the last-ranked Department of Community and Cultural Affairs stunned pennant champion Hyatt Regency Saipan, 77-68, on Monday night at the Gilbert C. Ada Gymnasium.

Hyatt was still in good shape at the start of the fourth quarter, as it led by six, 53-47. However, the pennant champion went into foul trouble, sending DCCA to the 15-foot line in the halfway mark of the payoff period and allowing the latter to steal the win.

Ponce Rasa led DCCA's comeback in the final quarter, nailing 12 of his 14 points in that canto and drilling five free throws.

Rasa had Peter Camacho and Romeo Iginoef helping him lift DCCA to a come-from-behind win in the fourth period. Camacho made seven of his 18 points in the fourth, scoring four of DCCA's last six markers, while Iginoef tallied nine of his 20 points in that period.

Hyatt had only Ray Lizama and Dave Sablan making more than two points in the final quarter and the two gunners fouled out in the closing minutes of the game.

With the defeat Hyatt fell to the loser's bracket and must beat the loser of the match between Docomo and CPA Accounting to remain in contention. DCCA will duel the winner of the PSS-Tinian game for a semifinals seat.

In the second game, second-ranked IT&E took a different route when it survived Micronesian Brokers, Inc.'s fourth-quarter rally, 90-74.

IT&E broke away in the second canto when it outgunned MBI in the last five minutes of that period, 23-5, to

See DCCA on Page 26

IT&E's Darwin Barbo pulls up for a jumper against MBI's Art Trajano during their playoff game in the government/business caging on Monday at the Gilbert C. Ada Gymnasium.

ROSELYN B. MONROYO

Sizzlers down Air Benders

By ROSELYN B. MONROYO
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REPORTER

The Sizzlers finally sizzled after stunning Air Benders, 4-3, in the 2009 Traders Insurance Badminton Team Tournament on Saturday at the REM Centre.

The Sizzlers dropped their first three games in the weekend tournament, losing to Air Benders in the advantage set, 2-5, on Nov. 21, to Katipuneros (2-5) on Nov. 22, and

See SIZZLERS on Page 26

ROSELYN B. MONROYO

The Sizzlers' Keno San Pablo serves while Kanata Omori looks on during their men's BC doubles match against Air Benders' Noli Santos and Manatsu Omori in the Traders badminton tournament on Saturday at the REM Centre.

Former Saipan Little Leaguer to play in Division I

By MARK RABAGO
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ASSISTANT EDITOR

Justin Alexander, a member of the CNMI All-Star team that advanced to the 2004 Little League World Series, will be playing NCAA Division I baseball after signing to play for the Tennessee Technological University Golden Eagles.

The right-handed pitcher/outfielder grew up on Saipan, saw action in the Saipan Little League, and attended Cal-

See FORMER on Page 26

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Former Saipan Little League All-Star Justin Alexander, left, shakes hands with his father, Roy Alexander, during the Nov. 17s recognition ceremony in Webb School of Knoxville's Lee Athletic Center.

3 teams win debut in Chamolinian league

ROSELYN B. MONROYO

A Team Fuegu batters waits for the pitch during their debut game against 6-Pack in the Chamolinian Softball Association's 2009 Budweiser Slow-pitch Softball League on Monday night at the Capital Hill Ballfield.

By ROSELYN B. MONROYO
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REPORTER

San Roque and Team Fuegu posted similar close victories, while Red Eye had an easier time in its debut in the Chamolinian Softball Association's 2009 Budweiser Slow-pitch Softball League on Monday night at the Capital Hill Ballfield.

San Roque played in the first game against Calikano-Falcons after the brief opening ceremony that featured the traditional parade of 21 participating teams and won, 7-6.

Pitcher Manny Tenorio connected on a three-run triple at the bottom of the sixth inning and later reached home plate on a Calikano-Falcons error to break the deadlock and give San Roque a 7-3 lead.

Calikano-Falcons scored only three runs at the top of the seventh inning, failing to extend the game. Gerald Jones, Mario Salas Jr., and D.J. Omar made one run each for Calikano-Falcons, but the game ended when Keoni Borja

See 3 TEAMS on Page 26